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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

COMMENTARY ON AIMS OF ISRAELI INVASION

NC021303 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1022 GMT 2 Jul 82

[2 July editorial in FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, the central newspaper of the PLO: "The Fate of Muslims Is in Danger"]

[Text] The events taking place in the mountains and in upper al-Matn are not merely individual clashes or to settle old scores between the Phalangist Party and the Progressive Socialist Party. In the past 3 days, it has been proven to everyone that the Phalangist Party is trying to evict the Druze population from upper al-Matn. Bashir al-Jumayyil and his party, as a cover for this plan, use the claim that these are individual clashes or revenge acts from the vestiges of the civil war and its aftermath.

In Sidon, Tyre, al-Nabatiyah and al-Damur, as in al-Shuf the people are surprised by the military deployment of Phalangists who, on behalf of the Israeli invasion forces, undertake dirty acts. Even the Israeli military spokesman denied that the Israeli forces had participated in the military operations in the mountains.

The Phalangist Party, the main side to benefit from the Israeli invasion, is carrying out blatant Israeli tasks. At the time when it is expanding military and manpower control in the al-Matn area, it is liquidating the national forces in the south. In al-'Ayshiyah, the Phalangist Party suddenly appeared in al-Nabatiyah and imposed its domination of the people. Everyday, the Phalangist Party is doing a deed against the citizens to bring them to their knees.

In the area south of al-Zahrani, Sa'd Haddad has established the authority of the Free Lebanon State. This authority is the southern branch of Bashir al-Jumayyil's authority in Kasrawan and the mountains. What Sa'd Haddad's authority is doing is strengthening the forces of the same (?color) in the south. As for the Shi'ites, they will be (?disarmed) [words indistinct] will be silenced. It is not a slip of the tongue that Menahem Begin yesterday asked that Maj Sa'd Haddad be promoted to colonel and publicly wished that he be appointed as a member of the so-called future Lebanese National Government, whose tasks will be determined by the conclusion of a peace treaty with Israel. Thus, the triangle of peace, of which General Sharon spoke, as well

as this national government will be established. This government would have to agree to a security belt of 45 kms inside Lebanese territory to safeguard Israel's border. We can make an assumption of the future image of Lebanon under the balance of power that will emerge under the canopy of the Israeli occupation. [words indistinct] of what now is taking place in southern Lebanon and in the mountains cannot be completed without a decisive change in the existing forces in the western part of Beirut, which comprises all the national and Palestinian commands and all the Islamic forces which reject Phalangist domination of Muslims.

It is important to note that Philip Habib yesterday disclosed the future for the western part of Beirut, when he submitted a new proposal including an article providing for withdrawing arms of the forces and masses in the western part of Beirut without mentioning one word about the weapons in the hands of the Phalangist Party. We believe that what will happen after resolving the Palestinian dilemma is that they [not further identified] will swoop down upon the masses of the Muslims and their Islamic and national forces in the western part of Beirut. The enormous scheme that has been prepared with utmost care will not be smooth but a bulldozer to be driven by all forces. None of those--who sleep on silk and imagine that what will happen in Lebanon is only what Israel is saying--will remain. It is a (?myth) to believe that Israel's military operation in Lebanon is aimed only against the Palestinians and that the other Islamic and national forces will be left alone. The fact is that the events that have taken place in the mountains and in the south; the reports, information and carefully-planned assassinations in the mountains, al-Nabatiyah and Tyre; the forces raising their heads now under the bayonet of occupation and all the new events, affirm that the Israeli invasion is not an action limited to the Palestinians, but an action that will sweep Lebanon from its roots and origins and destroy its private and public future. The current huge invasion cannot be interpreted without linking Israel's historic aims in Lebanon and the point the Lebanese situation has reached from the Israeli perspective. The Israelis view Lebanon as a country prepared for political domination by dismembering Lebanon as one country and people.

Lebanon needs a respite by its sons, even though the siege is laid to Beirut. Easy solutions reached today would be the basis of future catastrophies. The Arabs one day thought that Israel would be content with Palestine only. As time went by, Israel struck at all Arabs defeating their armies. Today, certain people wrongly imagine that the aim of the Israeli invasion is only the Palestinian revolution. The Phalangists, the Lebanese ally of the invaders, [word indistinct] goals against both the Palestinians and Lebanese based on evacuating them from the areas they live in.

Since the emphasis is now on the Palestinians, tomorrow it will be on the Lebanese. Therefore, we need a responsible, courageous and farsighted respite that will skip easy solutions and the illusions being nurtured in the

imagination of certain traditionalists, who dream about a past they hope will return. Under the umbrella of the Zionist invasion, however, a new era has begun in Lebanon and the area. Without a farsighted and comprehensive outlook, this invasion cannot be confronted, particularly since the limits of the Arab stand do not go beyond the role of a fireman, who forgets the criminal, conceals the evidence of the crime and leaves the invaders do as they please. It is up to the Muslims to decide and have their say. We, the Palestinians, say that our fate is linked to that of the Muslims. What is required is to adopt a joint and united stand at this historic juncture of Lebanon's and Palestine's life.

CSO: 4400/348

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO'S QADDUMI VIEWS FUTURE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

PM051441 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun 82 pp 1, 2

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau interview with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] A prominent Palestinian official said that "The Palestinian people in the occupied territories have now become ready for armed struggle against Israel." This remark came in the official's answers to a question put by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the future of Palestinian armed action in the light of the likelihood of Israel overrunning the western sector of Beirut, and consequently, destroying the last bastion in which the resistance enjoyed relative freedom and in view of the fact that the other borders from which Palestinian armed action could be launched (Jordan and Syria) are "idle borders" and are not expected to be open [for such action] in the near future.

Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, explained that it is not necessary for Palestinian armed action to continue across other borders. Our people in the occupied territories, he said, have reached a full state of revolution. The violent uprising which recently was witnessed in the West Bank and Gaza is the best proof of this. We have, in fact, been able, thanks to our own efforts, to develop the political and military situation of our people so as to be ready for large-scale military action.

In evaluating the Arab situation and the possibility of the six-man committee, set up by the Arab League Council (to meet in Ta'if today), formalizing a unified Arab stand, particularly with regard to the Palestinian demand for imposing a total boycott on the United States, Abu al-Lutf said: "I believe that the Arab situation cannot come to a head all at once. It appears that Arab sensibilities have become considerably dulled because of successive setbacks. Therefore, there is a need for continuing shocks so that Arab sensibilities will begin to revive strongly. We have great hopes that these sensibilities will grow so as to become a force exerting pressure on the Arab regimes so that they will adopt the stances and measures we find necessary in the present phase of the struggle."

Reiterating the Palestinian attitude toward certain Arab regimes, Qaddumi said: "The PLO believes that certain Arab regimes had knowledge of the conspiracy. But this will not be allowed to pass easily because the Palestinian revolution,

although it sometimes criticizes the slack stances of Arab regimes, cannot accept this silence [over the Israeli invasion of Lebanon] which has reached treasonous proportions."

He said that certain Arab regimes did not expect Israel to penetrate so deeply into Lebanon but, he added, they denied knowledge of the conspiracy.

With regard to Israeli proposals to settle the Palestinians on the eastern bank of Jordan and Syria, Abu al-Lutf said: "And in southern Lebanon as well. [as published] These are tunes reiterated by the world imperialist and Zionist quarters but we will accept no substitute for our homeland in Palestine however long it might take in order to achieve this objective. Lebanon is for the Lebanese, Jordan is for the Jordanians and Palestine is for the Palestinians. This is our slogan and we shall struggle for its sake."

Regarding the Soviet attitude toward current events, which the resistance quarters described as disappointing, Qaddumi said: "The Soviet Union has not let the Palestinian revolution down. Indeed it has supported it politically and militarily. It is considered to be our number one friend but it is not required to send its armies to defend us. Rather it is the Arab regimes that should undertake this task. However, in the meantime we hope that the Soviet Union's political stand will be stronger than its present stand against Israel and the United States."

Regarding the U.S. stand and whether the PLO expects an imminent U.S. recognition, chief of the PLO Political Department, said: "I cannot foresee that the United States, which adopts such a hostile stand toward our people's aspirations and which colludes with Israel in order to annihilate our people, could recognize us within a short time. But I am optimistic about the world opinion which is increasingly recognizing our rights and the need to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Discussing the future of the Palestine problem in the international arena, Abu al-Lutf said: "What has happened and what is happening has strengthened the Palestinian revolution's political standing and bolstered its position." He affirmed that "an international conference could be held shortly in order to find a solution for the Palestine problem," but did not say when such conference could be held or which are the major parties that will attend it.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

REJECTION OF PUTTING DOWN ARMS

GF281523 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 28 Jun 82 p 13

[Text] Salim al-Za'nun, Abu al-Adib, Fatah representative in the Gulf region, has affirmed that the Palestinian revolution will resist forever all the attempts of political blackmail it has been subjected to since the cease-fire.

He said the Palestinian revolution will remain honest and faithful to the Lebanese national movement and will support it in its rejection of the attempts to impose the control of the Phalangists on Lebanon and to impose Bashir al-Jumayyil as Lebanese president.

Abu al-Adib told AL-KHALIJ that the PLO has told all political mediators and informed all the concerned parties that it insists on the total withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from Lebanon. He said: Talk about a partial Israeli withdrawal to a certain area around Beirut is only an introduction to the talk about a total withdrawal by the Zionist invasion forces.

Abu al-Adib emphasized that the Zionist invasion's goal is not only to annihilate the Palestinian revolution but to assume political and economic control of Lebanon and to impose a peace agreement on the Lebanese authorities.

Abu al-Adib described the recent change in the U.S. State Department as a result of the Palestinian and Lebanese steadfastness against the Zionist invasion forces. He said: Alexander Haig turned into a soldier under Sharon and he exceeded all the limits which the United States previously agreed on with Israel. However, Alexander Haig's dismissal does not mean a radical change in U.S. policy. The United States wants to impose a U.S. settlement on the region based on the Camp David accords.

Abu al-Adib reiterated that the joint forces will not put down arms so long as the Zionist enemy is occupying Lebanon. He said: The Palestinian revolution is ready to confront the enemy if he tries to enter Beirut. The enemy will not pass up any chance to breach the cease-fire and to resume the shelling of Beirut before it enters it.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PFLP OFFICIAL VIEWS U.S., SOVIET POLICIES

PM060903 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Jun 82 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report: "PFLP: The Syrian and Joint Forces Confronted Zionist Aggression With Heroism"]

[Excerpts] Damascus--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has praised Syria's stand in defense of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

During a press conference yesterday PFLP deputy secretary general Abu 'Ali Mustafa said that Syria's national and pan-Arab consistent and principled stand does not need proof or witnesses because it has been tangible on the ground and the battlefield since the invasion began.

He said that the United States is a full partner in the Zionist invasion and, in fact, the one which masterminded the invasion. He added that the Arab reactionary regimes have been colluding with the invasion and its objectives and have collaborated with Philip Habib in the political maneuvers aimed at facilitating the attainment of the objectives of the invasion.

Defining the front's attitude toward the political maneuvers, he said: Our decision is crystal clear. It is a decision taken in the battlefield, a decision to stand fast. We will make no political concessions under any circumstances and we will not bargain over the Palestinian armed revolution's right to struggle from within Lebanese and all other Arab territories. The PLO will remain the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. We will not discuss forms and arrangements for the PLO presence in Lebanon except with the Lebanese nationalists after the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon. We will not allow the Zionist occupation forces to settle in Lebanese territory. We will continue to fight until they withdraw.

He said that the Soviet Union is a friend and a strategic ally of the Arab liberation movement. He added: We are confident that it will shoulder its responsibilities toward the Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese national steadfastness.

He also said: U.S. arms are killing our women and children in addition to the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese fighters, but the Arab regimes continue to advocate relations with the United States.

He asserted that the Arab reactionary regimes which collaborated with the aggression will pay a high price, and delude themselves if they think that the Zionist aggression can destroy the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement and undermine Syria's steadfastness.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'ARAFAT DELIVERS SPEECH MARKING RAMADAN

NC230830 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0556 GMT 23 Jun 82

[Speech by PLO executive committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, addressed to the masses of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, the Arab nation and the heroes of the joint forces--live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate: Beloved brothers, oh comrades in arms, oh fighters of the holy struggle in our joint forces, oh steadfast and courageous masses of our Lebanese-Palestinian people: On the first day of the blessed month--the month of Ramadan--in which the Koran started to be delivered, I address you while we are in our nineteenth day of confrontation, with all our faith, steadfastness and firmness, against this Israeli-U.S. invasion within the framework of the big U.S. conspiracy against our people, our masses and our Arab nations to tame the area and to impose its full control over it.

You have been able, oh brothers and comrades of the long difficult struggle, to turn upside down, through your glorious valor and wonderful confrontations, many military theories. You have demonstrated to the whole world that this Israeli army, which is heavily armed with the most advanced and powerful U.S. weapons, defeat you or deprive you of your firm will or shake your deep faith.

Oh brothers, oh beloved, oh comrades in arms: You are steadfast in your trenches like the [word indistinct] steadfast soldiers, like the steadfast people, like the holy fighters in your positions in the south, the mountain and al-Biqa'. You are there with your pride, with all of your pride, before and behind the enemy lines--ready to fight with all firmness in your positions, defending not only yourselves, but, in your readiness to fight, this steadfast readiness to fight, you are defending the remnant of the symbol of your Arab nation's dignity and honor and to pay the price for the satisfying revolutionary ambitions of the Arab generations.

Oh brothers, oh masses of our steadfast people, oh masses of our great Arab nation: These few faithful fighters of the holy war are determined to be the fuel through which emerges, the fuel through which the dignity of the coming

generations is derived, the generations of the future who are addressing them from Beirut--the besieged Beirut, the steadfast Beirut--as a beacon of the holy struggle, as a beacon of steadfastness and as a beacon of resistance.

These young fighters of the holy war are the "youths who believed in their Lord, and we advanced them in guidance." [Koranic verse] This holy struggle, dear brothers, dearly beloved, is our path to victory, is our path to victory, is our path to a bright and glorious future.

The babies of my country and my Arab nation should learn that this holy struggle is for them, their future, and to enable them to live free, lifting up their heads, to be dignified and their foreheads away from this rotten Arab swamp at this shameful Arab time.

I am addressing my brothers, the hero babies, the joint forces and all the Syrian forces which are now fighting, side by side, with their brother fighters, who are teaching this Zionist enemy lessons in confrontation from their fighting positions. They have demonstrated to their Arab nation, to its masses and to all the free and honorable people of the world the truthfulness, the originality and the strength of the march.

I am also addressing the revolutionaries in the Palestinian revolution, who have demonstrated that they are the difficult number in the equation, especially after fighting these battles with all their fierceness and what accompanied them of the conflagration breaking out from the interior.

In this blessed month, brothers and beloved, in this blessed month, oh our giving people, oh steadfast and courageous Lebanese people, in this blessed month--the month of Badr, the month of Badr, the month of the victories, the month of the glorious victories--God may bless these youthful, faithful hands which are achieving glory and writing epics. A state of utmost bliss to the steadfast fighters of the holy war. A state of utmost bliss to you, oh brothers and beloved, in your trenches where you are crushing the conspiracy, defending the homeland, building the modern struggle through your [word indistinct], and recording on the records of glory [word indistinct] and conquests.

On the occasion of this anniversary, and on this day, I would like to remind you of the greatness of the Arab prophet when he was fighting the battle of al-Khandaq. I see the victory, I see the victory. In your eyes I see Jerusalem, I see Palestine from lofty Lebanon, from the holy struggler Lebanon.

God will render victorious whomsoever he chooses to render victories. God is mighty and noble. If God bestows upon you his help, nobody can defeat you.

Your brother, Abu 'Ammar.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO PAPER EXPLAINS PALESTINIAN POSITION

NC221859 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Who Is Violating the Sovereignty of Lebanon," today's FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH says: What Israel has carried out is a military invasion of Lebanon. What Israel is continuing to do is consolidate its occupation of Lebanon, appointing military governors, imposing its currency and opening Lebanon to Israeli goods. Israel is hiding these occupation measures by saying it is prepared to withdraw from Lebanon soon. But Menahem Begin is insisting on concluding a peace treaty and a security agreement with the Lebanese authority.

In view of the Israeli occupation, which threatens the whole of Lebanon, priority must be given to confronting this occupation militarily or politically. If the Lebanese forces taking part in the salvation council prefer political over military confrontation, this is their business. But the essential thing here is for this confrontation to take the interests of all the Lebanese people into account and not the interests of only one party.

What happened at the meeting of the salvation council the day before yesterday was that President Sarkis and Bashir al-Jumayyil concentrated not on the need to confront the occupation but on the need to utilize this occupation to regain Lebanon's sovereignty from the Palestinians and the Syrians. Consequently, the Israeli invasion forces will have a Lebanese role. These Israeli forces, instead of being faced by Lebanon with its Muslim and Christian wings, are being depicted as having come to rescue Lebanon and are being dressed in a national garment--instead of appearing before all Lebanese in their true role as forces of occupation, invasion and expansion and not as forces for the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty from its Palestinian and Syrian usurpers, as it was put by one of the members of the National Salvation Council.

We join our voice with that of every Lebanese loyal to Lebanon. We Palestinians have paid a high price, whether in the civil war which tore Lebanon apart and which was planned by Kissinger and kindled by Israel, or in standing fast in the south to defend the land of the south and its Palestinian national cause. We add here that the fragmentation which took place during these dark periods did not serve the cause of Palestine or the revolution of Palestine. It was designed to be against the Palestinians, knowing that the Palestinian mistakes were never as grave as the mistakes committed by the officials actually responsible for Lebanon.

We have submitted to the official Lebanese side--whether through official or private channels--our position, which has become known. We recognize that a new situation has developed as a result of the Israeli invasion. This situation demands--against the background of Arab retreat and international plotting--that the first task now should be to protect the entity of Lebanon against the danger of Israeli occupation and of actual partition. In view of our awareness of Israel's threat to Lebanon at present and in the future, we seize upon every good international, Arab or Lebanese initiative that could safeguard the Lebanese entity. Along with this responsible position we announce our respect for Lebanese sovereignty in the face of the occupation. In this difficult time we must be loyal soldiers and strong fighters in order to defend Lebanese sovereignty against the Israeli usurpers. We do not hold the wrong view that the Palestinians are usurping Lebanese sovereignty and that the Israelis are the protectors of this sovereignty.

We elaborate on this point because it constitutes a principal obstacle before the salvation council. There are some who insist that priority must be given to the withdrawal of the Palestinian arms and the retreat of the Palestinians to within the camps and to the opening of fire on anyone who carries arms. If someone asks Philip Habib how it is possible to protect the Palestinian revolution's leaders and cadres from the Israelis, he says: We are not murderers. Our reply is that we totally respond to whatever safeguards Lebanese sovereignty in light of the existing situation in Lebanon. This sovereignty is being threatened by the invading Israelis, exactly as the Palestinians are being threatened by the invading Israelis. For this [phrase indistinct]. We also say that priority must be given to the withdrawal of the Israeli invading forces, given that this invasion threatens Palestinian sovereignty and existence at the same time. Why can't we, Palestinians and Lebanese, unite and agree on one aim, which is the withdrawal of the invading forces, and exert pressure for its implementation with the military strength we possess on the ground and in the Arab and international arenas?

The claim that the Lebanese authority can do nothing but submit to us Philip Habib's suggestions is rejected, because the Lebanese authority at this moment does not represent its members or legitimacy itself. Its decisions should reflect the will of all Lebanese. This means that the salvation council's decision now should be that priority should be given to the Israeli withdrawal, which should coincide with an agreement between the PLO and the Lebanese authority regulating the relations between the two sides in accordance with Lebanese priorities. Since we now think that the Israeli danger is seriously threatening Lebanon's existence and sovereignty, we share the position of the sincere sons of Lebanon that we must all join hands to safeguard this existence and rescue sovereignty and unity.

Hence, we have suggested to the Lebanese side that the legal authority and now the Salvation Council exert pressure and, on behalf of Lebanon, ask Philip Habib and the United States to submit guarantees for a total and immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon according to a timetable that would be put into effect

immediately. Until the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal and according to a timetable to be guaranteed by the UN Security Council or the United States or both, the Lebanese army will take up positions in the areas from which the Israeli invasion forces will withdraw. [sentence as heard] Then, there will be an international and realistic guarantee to begin deploying the Lebanese army in the areas of western Beirut and elsewhere, because the Palestinians, as a revolution and a people, will then be reassured that the Israeli invasion forces will be faced by the Lebanese army forces and the joint forces, and we will be reassured of the presence of the Lebanese army forces as a barrier between our joint forces and the Israeli invasion forces. We, however, have no confidence in any U.S. or Israeli assurances that they will not attack Beirut, while [Israeli Defense Minister] Sharon insists that his aggressive objective has not yet been achieved, and he insists on the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution leadership and the military revolution inside Beirut.

We address the masses of the Lebanese people and say: How can we depend on any theoretical or oral guarantee as long as the occupation forces are besieging Beirut and shelling it every day? We announce these facts so that the Lebanese people can be informed of what is going on behind the scenes and so that every Lebanese can be fair in his position despite the severity of the invasion and siege imposed on Beirut and despite the savage enemy shelling carried out in order to prevent the people from thinking and to make them all submit to his extortionist demands.

We do not think that the Lebanese masses will accept Philip Habib's suggestions, which are based on total surrender. We are against surrender. We are a revolution which was molded by sacrifices, blood and this leadership, which adopted the decision to fight and to carry arms and which has no intention of laying down arms under Israeli threats. The interests of our people demand that we hold fast to the rifle despite the sacrifices. We do not retreat or surrender in the face of the enemy, but rather we shall fight and die as martyrs in defense of our just cause and the right of our generation to continue fighting and to continue the revolution. The duty of this generation supported by the honest Lebanese is to kindle the revolution and keep its banner flying high.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH' ASSAILS ARAB REGIMES

NC301634 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1306 GMT 30 Jun 82

[30 June FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH commentary: "Had the Arabs Been Arab"]

[Text] Leader of the Palestinian revolution Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has to [words indistinct] and to fight on the Beirut front [words indistinct] to fight on behalf of all the Arabs, because the Arabs are no longer Arab. It has now been demonstrated to the world that the Arab League is an Arab lie, that the Arab word is an Arab lie, that steadfastness and confrontation are an Arab lie and that Arab solidarity is [words indistinct].

(?We are not) ashamed of the word "Arab," because we love it, nor of Arab history, because we love that passionately. However, the Palestinians have to form their ideas differently, because the things that are taken for granted in the Arab world no longer exist. Not one Arab leader has told his enemy to move to break the siege on Beirut, on the Palestinian revolution and on Yasir 'Arafat who, together with all the Arab kings and presidents, attended all the Arab summit conferences and signed all the Arab documents. However, the memory of the Arab kings and presidents is failing them at the moment, because the United States says that we Palestinians are terrorists and are not fit to be members of the U.S.-dominated club of Arab rulers.

Naturally, we will not be honored to be members of a club which prevents Arab solidarity, abolishes the steadfastness and confrontation front, cancels the Arab League and turns the Arab regimes into mere bodies afraid to belong to the Arabs and [words indistinct] their feelings and national conscience.

In the U.S. club, when a war of annihilation is launched against the Palestinian people, we see no Arab leader declaring war against Israel or saying he will declare jihad against Israel. Everybody is (?engaged) in political and diplomatic contacts in the hope of forestalling the battle for Beirut and rescuing what can be rescued after the whole world has come to realize that the Arab regimes have abandoned the Palestinian revolution and left it alone in the battlefield to confront Israel, which has built an aggressive army to confront all the Arab armies collectively.

We admit that we have been surprised, not by the Israeli enemy's intentions but by the intentions of the Arab regimes. Despite all the Arab (?hesitation) about which we have spoken and warned a great deal, a hope lying deep in our hearts has prevented us from breaking the slim link with these regimes. We

have been saying that the Palestine cause unites the Arabs and that there are limits for the Israeli [word indistinct] against the Palestinian people. However, the fact that the invasion forces have now reached Beirut and besieged it and are threatening to attack should convince whoever is not yet convinced that the Arabs are indisputably weak and thus cannot be counted on.

We have been saying that the Palestine issue unites the Arabs and that there are limits to the Israeli [words indistinct] against the Palestinian people. At the outset of the invasion, we wished that Baghdad, Amman and Damascus had become aware of the planned aggression early enough and had united their ranks and armies and fought the enemy. However, nothing of this sort happened and the damage has been done, despite the fact that we have not given up our weapons. Death is a million times more honorable than having an Arab ruler say one day that the Palestinians have given up their arms and have not put up sufficient resistance. We say in this connection: despite the Arab ruler, we will not abandon our arms. Not one Arab ruler will see a single Fedayeen in Beirut give up his arms and board a bus or a ship to take him to another capital.

We advise all the rulers of the Arab capitals not to use any [words indistinct], because our hearts are full of bitterness and (?hatred). As far as the leader of the Palestinian revolution and his colleagues are concerned, the decision is a clear and irrevocable one. Despite the ferocious propaganda campaign aimed at having us give up our arms without putting up a fight, Yasir 'Arafat has proclaimed: The winds of paradise and martyrdom for the sake of Palestine have blown and are bringing nearer the hour of the liberation of Palestine. The leader is a Fedayeen before he is a leader, and for this reason, his thoughts are confined to the cause of the revolution and its success. He is not concerned about his personal fate.

West Beirut is replete with Palestinian and Lebanese men who have adopted an historical decision on behalf of their nation. Despite the siege that is imposed and [words indistinct] by the Israeli [words indistinct] campaign, we believe that this campaign reflects the extent of our strength in Beirut and shows that the enemy is thinking very carefully before waging the battle of Beirut. This battle will not be a picnic, nor will it be easy. As far as the enemy is concerned and despite his allegations, the results of this battle are not guaranteed. The factors of intrinsic steadfastness and the decision we have adopted to fight and other international factors will force the enemy to wage the battle of Beirut militarily [words indistinct] as if the ground will open up and swallow the Palestinians.

The enemy's military plan is based on [words indistinct] and then advance and so on. This plan will not [words indistinct] our military forces and armed masses from waging this war with intensive concentrated fire and forces. But if the enemy adopts the theory of an all-out assault, which is not likely, he must take into consideration the international consequences which his destructive war will produce.

Sharon's call on the Palestinians to lay down their arms reflect the Israeli confusion on the military level, not to mention the Israeli confusion which the effective and [words indistinct] Palestinian diplomacy has caused in the world.

The fact is that the Palestinian revolution is seeking to reach an agreement with the Lebanese authorities that will meet the Lebanese and Palestinian national requirement. We are keen on wresting from Begin all the excuses and justifications he is creating to [words indistinct] among us and our allies and our Lebanese masses, particularly the Muslim masses, which adopted this revolution and have paid with their blood the price for its continued presence and victory.

We shall enter the Beirut battle with united ranks and after everybody has become completely convinced that the heads of the Muslims are demanded, as are the heads of the Palestinians, because our enemy is aware that the Muslims are the ones who are continuing the Palestinian revolution as well as its protectors. The enemy is trying to divide the ranks so as to neutralize sections of the west Beirut inhabitants and then to pounce on them after doing away with the Palestinians.

We are moving on the political as well as on the military fronts. We have two aims: to protect west Beirut and to defend the revolution. West Beirut and the revolution will in no way be given up.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL INDICATES TIME ON PLO'S SIDE

PM231125 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 82 pp 1, 2

[Telephone interview with Dr 'Isam al-Sartawi, member of the Palestine National Council in charge of foreign contacts, by Mahir 'Uthman--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] London--Dr 'Isam al-Sartawi, member of the Palestine National Council and charged by the council to get in touch with the Israeli forces and organizations supporting the Palestinian people's rights, expressed the belief that "any negotiations under the Israeli guns surrounding Beirut do not serve the Palestinian revolution's interest."

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Sartawi, in the course of appraising the situation in Lebanon in the light of the Israeli forces' encirclement of Beirut, said:

"Acceptance of the fait accompli which Israel is trying to impose is tantamount to ending our existence as an organization and as a progressive movement representing the Palestinian identity and national entity. Acceptance would turn us into another higher Arab committee [Palestinian leadership during the Palestine mandate and the years that followed its end]. Therefore, negotiating under the Israeli guns does not serve our interest."

Asked how much Israel has so far achieved of its declared objectives in invading Lebanon, he said: "Considering the conditions of the current battle and the fact that the brothers in Beirut appraise the conditions precisely, the situation in general refutes the claim that Israel has achieved an easy military victory or that it can achieve this objective easily. The opposite is the truth. The Israeli position is very critical in that Beirut is a bastion which will not be easy for the Israeli forces to occupy; it is a city that is capable of standing fast for several weeks. It is also difficult for Israel to liquidate our forces spread out in the mountains, which means that we can fight a prolonged war against the Israeli enemy."

Dr al-Sartawi went on: "The time factor is not in Israel's favor. This is evident in the fact that Israel has thrown into the battle the largest forces ever in the history of its wars and aggressions, since Israel has never before

thrown in such vast quantities of equipment and forces. The immediate reason for this is the Israeli command's realization of the importance of the time factor and the vital importance of achieving its objectives in the shortest time possible. Therefore, we too must realize the importance of the time factor and turn it in our favor. The longer the battle lasts, the more we succeed in exploiting the Israeli enemy's points of weakness and the factors favoring the forces supporting us."

Dr al-Sartawi said that the factors favoring the forces supporting those resisting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon are: "The international reactions represented in world opinion's great anger at the crimes and barbarous actions which Israel has committed in Lebanon. This anger has even emerged among Jewish communities throughout the world where, for the first time since the creation of the State of Israel, world Jews are demonstrating against it and opposing what it is doing."

Asked about the Arab situation vis-a-vis the Israeli invasion, Dr al-Sartawi said: "The most dangerous thing about the Lebanese operation, in addition to its being aimed at annihilating the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, lies in the fact that it constitutes a serious precedent. If it is not thwarted and rejected it will consecrate Israel's endeavor to redraw the map of the Arab homeland, which makes it incumbent on all the Arab regimes, without exception and regardless of their outlooks, to realize its great danger and join forces with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement to thwart it by defeating the Israeli invasion."

Dr al-Sartawi said that "prolonging the battle will give the Arab brothers the opportunity to fight the war with all their capabilities and each according to his resources."

Speaking about the internal situation in Israel during the invasion, Dr al-Sartawi said: "For the first time significant voices in Israeli public opinion have been raised in objection to the war while it is being fought and describing it as an aggressive and unjust war and contrary to moral and human values. We are convinced that this anger against the invasion in Israeli circles will escalate and will increase in certain political quarters, particularly among the peace movement forces, and so will lead to the political situation exploding and to the fall of Begin's government. There are several signs in this direction."

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO OFFICIALS COMMENT ON LEBANON SITUATION

GF221926 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Jun 82 p 22

[Husayn al-Tantawi dispatch from Riyadh on statement by unidentified Palestinian military official in Beirut and interview given by Rafiq al-Natshah, Fatah representative in Saudi Arabia]

[Excerpts] A responsible military source in the operations room of the Palestinian command in Beirut has told AL-SIYASAH that the PLO is determined to fight to the last Palestinian soldier. He said military operations have not ceased since the Israeli occupation of Lebanon began.

He added: All PLO leaders are well, thank God. They are still in Beirut, fighting heroically. The forthcoming battle with the Israeli enemy in Beirut will go down in history as a new Stalingrad.

Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah (Abu Shakir), member of the PLO Central Council, told AL-SIYASAH that 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp is one of the Palestinian positions which the enemy tried to approach. What was the result? An Israeli officer said: The Fedayeen are fighting in a suicidal manner.

[Question] How did the Israelis reach the outskirts of Beirut and occupy strategic points throughout Lebanon?

[Answer] They threw more than 120,000 troops into the battle on land, sea and in the air. Every sophisticated weapon in the U.S. arsenal was used by the Israeli forces. It is a U.S. campaign waged by Israeli forces. The only weapons not used in Lebanon were intercontinental missiles and nuclear bombs--because Lebanon's situation does not allow for the use of such weapons.

It is said that there was a fierce confrontation between the Syrian army and the Israeli forces. I believe the Syrian army was not fully prepared for such a confrontation. This led to Syria's cessation of the fighting without referring to or coordinating with the Palestinian leadership. Consequently, our supply route between Damascus and Beirut was cut.

After the cease-fire with Syria, the enemy continued its advance and reached B'Abda. The al-Biqa' area is now at the mercy of Israeli artillery.

Abu Shakir says that the situation is very critical and we cannot remain silent about it. At the same time the deployment of Israeli forces in Lebanon is an excellent opportunity for any truly determined Arab army to destroy this army that threatens world peace.

[Question] What is the position of the Iranian forces which asked Iraq to be allowed to cross to Syria to participate in the fighting?

[Answer] So far, we have not heard about the implementation of such measures. Iranian volunteers have arrived in Damascus, but we have not heard of the movement of Iranian regular forces.

I regret to say that I have lost faith in many Arab countries which failed to come to the rescue of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in Lebanon.

[Question] What is taking place on the political level?

[Answer] On the international level there is a U.S. trend represented by the Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon and whose spokesman is secretary of state Haig. We are pleased with this new political reality because it shows that real face of U.S. policy in the region for the first time. The political trend in this regard is to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and turn it into a symbol without content--mere slogans, bureaus, cars and information. As for the gun, it should be divested of the revolutionary content it represents.

The other goal we are seeking to achieve is the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and the slogan that the aggressor should not be rewarded. There are also those who support the conditional withdrawal of Israeli forces and the evacuation of Palestinian forces from Lebanon if there is an Israeli intention to withdraw--which I doubt.

[Question] The Palestinian revolution has declared more than once that the Soviet Union is its strategic ally. What is the Soviet Union's stand on the war?

[Answer] Such a declaration could be made only by two sides. The Soviet Union has never said it is the strategic ally of the Palestinians. What the Palestinian revolution meant is to adopt a united stand against U.S. imperialism. We are fighting imperialism with our guns, blood and martyrs. As for the Soviet Union, it fights with other means--warnings and denunciations. Whatever the means used by the Soviet Union, it will never go so far as war.

The Palestinian masses in their hour of need ask for assistance from all friends against this barbaric invasion. We still have great hope for the Soviet Union.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO SPOKESMAN ASKS FOR FRENCH GESTURE TO 'ARAFAT

PM221011 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Jun 82 p 4

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in Paris by Jean Gueyras: "An Invitation for Mr 'Arafat to Visit France Would Be the Most Effective Response to the Invasion"]

[Text] In an interview which he granted us, Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in Paris, expressed the hope that France would invite Yasir 'Arafat on an official visit to Paris in order to show more clearly that it condemns the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

"France's attitude has been positive," he told us. "Mr Mitterrand has clearly and resolutely condemned Israelis action. But this is not enough. We want now to see France play a more active role on the international scene in order to add weight to the efforts already made with a view to finding a solution to the crisis."

[Question] Would you like France to take military action in the field?

[Answer] That is out of the question. We are not asking France to dispatch troops to Lebanon to separate the belligerents. We are rather asking it to adopt a political stance which could take the concrete form of official Paris recognition of the PLO.

In view of this an official invitation to Mr 'Arafat would be the best response to the Lebanon invasion. Such a step would be very useful and, furthermore, would enable France to play a more active role in the Near East.

[Question] Certain countries believe that the fighting in Lebanon has provided an opportunity for resolving the Lebanese crisis "while the iron is hot." Do you share this view, and what concessions could the PLO make with this aim in mind?

[Answer] We can see no glimmer of hope nor any possibility of negotiations as long as the Israeli occupation of Lebanon continues. For the time being our main concern is, with our Lebanese brothers' assistance, to end that occupation, so it is premature to talk about concessions. However, we are prepared to hold discussions with a Lebanese state, which we want to see strong and sovereign, but not before Israeli troops withdraw unconditionally.

[Question] Are you prepared to accept a formula which would regulate Palestinian military presence in Lebanon? In other words, would you agree to remain in Lebanon either unarmed or with limited arms?

[Answer] Disarming the Palestinians is out of the question. Our political significance depends on arms. You cannot ask a resistance movement to lay down its arms until its aspirations and objectives have been fulfilled.

[Question] And yet the possibility of negotiations under U.S. auspices has been mentioned.

[Answer] Unfortunately, the United States has so far been hostile to any dialogue with the PLO. It has encouraged Israeli aggression. I cannot see how it could alter its views and satisfy the PLO's just demands--a Palestinian state and self-determination for our people.

[Question] How do you explain the Arab countries' apparent passivity?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the Arab world is powerless. With the exception of a few countries and regimes, most Arab countries watch the Lebanese-Palestinian drama as spectators. Our people and the Lebanese people feel isolated in this fight.

[Question] Do you feel that the Syrians have "left you in the lurch?"

[Answer] I do not believe that Syria has given up the fight. As we know, it suffered serious losses during the first days of the conflict. But the war has not ended and the Syrians realize that they are endangered by Israeli aggression as much as we are.

[Question] To what extent is the USSR prepared to help you?

[Answer] The Soviets have given us diplomatic, political and military support which other big powers have refused to give. I believe that Moscow's warning to Israel and the United States should not be taken lightly. But it also necessary to take into consideration the delicate balance of strength between big powers in the Near East. Through its action, Israel has jeopardized peace not only in that region but also in the world, which has suddenly found itself on the brink of an abyss. So it is natural that the Soviets seek to avoid a Soviet-American confrontation.

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SPECIAL REPORT DISCUSSES AGRICULTURE IN MIDDLE EAST

London ARABIA in English No 10, Jun 82 pp 37-48

[Text] Dangerous Dependence

Arab government planners are becoming more and more concerned about the Arab world's lack of self-sufficiency in food production. The riots in Egypt in January 1977, which were sparked off by President Sadat's attempt to raise bread prices, reminded all that hungry stomachs make for discontented populations. Less than four years later, panic buying in some Gulf states after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war sent another shudder through government ministries.

Now it is the prospect of lost grain exports from Argentina, one of the world's major suppliers, that is worrying Arab countries dependent on world markets for their wheat. Behind it all lies the nagging worry that the US, the world's main food exporter, could either block sales or raise prices dramatically if US-Arab relations were ever to break down.

The region's dependence on imported food was underlined in a recent report published by the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), a UN agency. It showed that the Arab countries, plus Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Cyprus, spent more than \$12.2bn on food imports in 1979. This is more than six times the 1972 level.

FAO estimates that, on current trends, the area will be spending more than \$3.4bn on imported grain alone by 1985, with imported meat costing another \$1.5bn. This could push the countries' total food import bill past \$16bn by 1985.

The rise in food import costs is particularly dramatic in the oil-producing states of the Gulf, where a combination of high immigration, rapid population growth and increasing disposable incomes has meant higher spending on imported meat and luxury foods, as well as on cereals, fruits and vegetables.

Saudi Arabia now imports almost 90 per cent of its food, at a cost of \$1.37bn in 1979. In the UAE, imports of agricultural produce, excluding live animals, rose 70 per cent last year – despite greater local production. Iraq spent \$1.37bn on food imports in 1980 – double the amount of three years earlier.

Even in countries with extensive agricultural land, the food import bill has been rising steadily. Obviously, population growth is one factor, but so is labour from the villages. Algeria, for example, now spends more than \$1.9bn a year on food, compared with \$1bn in 1977, and this is expected to reach \$2.3bn by 1984.

Egypt buys in more than \$500m worth of cereals and tinned foods annually, even though many of its grain imports are subsidised by the US. And hard currency used to import rice, sugar, tea and canned meats means there is less for other basic import needs such as transport machinery, manufactured goods and medical supplies.

To date, efforts to focus regional attention on the problem of food dependence have had little success. In 1975, one of the first agencies set up to tackle the need for increased local production, the Arab Authority for Agriculture Investment and Development (AAAID), drew up a 25-year master plan to make Sudan the "breadbasket" of the Arab world: under the blueprints, by the end of the first 10 years the country was to produce 42 per cent of the region's vegetable oil import needs, along with 20 per cent of the sugar, 15 per cent of the wheat and 58 per cent of the animal feedstuffs import needs.

However, AAAID failed to make any major disbursements for the \$6bn programme until 1979. Only in 1980 did it manage to set up a

number of companies in specific sectors – dairy, poultry, fruit and vegetables – and most of these are still not fully operational.

There were problems in the Sudan because of a lack of infrastructure, but the main difficulty lay in the differing approaches favoured by Sudan and the authority's sponsors, the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The subsequent political wrangling over its staffing added to the delay.

Greater progress has been seen from the Khartoum-based Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), which has drawn up a \$33bn programme for "food security" in the Arab world. Experts from 20 Arab countries, aided by others from the West and from several international organisations, have already completed 300 studies on a range of projects to increase the production of grain, vegetable oils, meat and fertilisers.

Other projects, to create huge fish farms and stockpiles of essential commodities, are also planned. But while some Arab countries have pledged funds, the organisation is seriously short of cash – and most observers fear that it will take years to implement the projects even if the cash is found.

More promising is the plan launched by the Islamic Conference organisation late last year in Ankara, where representatives of 29 Islamic countries agreed to set aside some \$1.5bn to build up food stocks and increase trade between Islamic states. A permanent committee, with representatives from Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey and the UAE was also established to study long-term schemes for increased food production.

The creation of a stockpile will, of course, help to avert the dangers of famine or disaster. But it will also give countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia more scope to focus on producing grain to export to the Middle East and other Islamic states, which now import heavily from the West.

Agreements of this kind demonstrate the rising concern about food self-sufficiency. But much more remains to be done if the Arab world, and the Islamic states in general, are to remove their vulnerability to outside suppliers.

Reclaiming the Land To Boost Output

Efforts to increase food production in North Africa and the Middle East are leading to a significant expansion of government spending on agriculture. Saudi Arabia, which has found untapped sources of underground water, is planning to spend \$2.4bn by the end of 1985; another \$2.4bn has been allocated to the Agricultural Bank to enable it to provide loans and grants to private businessmen and farmers wishing to import turnkey farms, agricultural machinery and food processing equipment.

Libya is spending \$10.1bn on agriculture during its five-year development plan which began in January 1981. Algeria has set aside \$5.7bn for agricultural development in the period 1980-84, including \$2.2bn for the purchase of agricultural equipment. Iraq and Egypt, which have extensive areas of arable land and the manpower needed to develop it, will also be spending heavily. Smaller countries like Syria, North Yemen, Oman, Tunisia and Jordan are drawing on aid funds or on the private sector to provide finance to expand their cultivated areas and to improve rural farming conditions.

Land reclamation and irrigation is gaining renewed emphasis. The Saudi plans call for the expansion of the country's cultivated land from the present 600,000 hectares to two million hectares by the end of the century. Some 250,000 hectares will be irrigated to expand the production of wheat, vegetables and animal fodder. New crops, such as barley, sorghum and millet, will be introduced and special attention will be given to expanding the cultivation of date palms.

Saudi farmers will receive subsidies ranging from between 45 to 50 per cent of costs to cover the import of agricultural equipment, pumps and fertilisers. Research stations and experimental farms will be expanded to teach farmers how to grow crops using modern methods and new agricultural colleges and training institutes will also be set up. While the kingdom will still need to import most of its basic food requirements, Saudi planners hope the increased expenditure will enable the country to achieve self-sufficiency in

wheat production within 10 years, in addition to reducing fruit and vegetables imports.

The Libyan five-year plan calls for development of new farms and irrigated areas along the coastal strip using water pumped from underground reservoirs in the desert. The annual growth rate for the agricultural sector is expected to rise to an average of 7.4 per cent a year, thereby enabling Libya to meet 62 per cent of its food requirements by 1985. Among the projects under way are a programme to sow crops by air; already some 67,000 hectares of irrigated land has been sown with wheat, barley and alfalfa. Another project, costing \$6.5m, provides for the drawing up of cartographic surveys and a 20-year land use programme for an area of 700,000 square kilometres. Other schemes involve the setting up of integrated bakery and flour milling complexes, new milk processing factories and canning plants to reduce the country's imports of manufactured foods.

The Algerian plan, in addition to the purchase of agricultural equipment, calls for additional outlays on vegetable production, crop development, stock-breeding, agricultural research and rural infrastructure. Some 70,000 hectares of land will be reclaimed near Sidi bel Abbes alone. As a result, cereal production is expected to rise to 30m quintals by 1985, about half as much again as in 1981. Egg production is to increase fivefold, to 1.24m by the end of 1984. The establishment of new cooperatives, combined with the construction of new dairies and food processing plants, will help to reduce waste and to ensure better distribution of agriculture.

Iraq, which has some of the most fertile land in the Arab world, is spending huge sums on mass irrigation systems run directly by the government. Among them are the 270,000-hectare Abu Ghraib project which will cost \$1.2bn. Egypt is relying on the greater use of merchandised equipment and fertilisers to increase output and reduce imports. Of the \$6bn allotted to agriculture under the 1980-84 development plan, more than \$1bn is expected to be spent on new tractors, water pumps and transport equipment. Syria is also encouraging its farmers to use more modern methods and is importing tractors and threshers from Allis-Chalmers and other US firms. Finance for some of these imports is being provided by Libya, which is also helping to establish new dairy and sheep-breeding farms in Syria.

Jordan, North Yemen and Tunisia are relying on overseas aid to increase production. The second stage of the Jordan Valley Project, which aims to irrigate 10,000 hectares of land in the Valley and convert another 12,000

hectares from open channel to sprinkler irrigation is expected to be funded by the World Bank, the US and West Germany. North Yemen's land reclamation project along the Tihama coast is being financed by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Britain, the Netherlands and the World Bank. The Soviet Union, East Germany and Czechoslovakia are providing funds for agricultural equipment imports and the electrification of rural areas.

Tunisia, which has increased agricultural output by 50 per cent in 20 years, is hoping to attract funds from France, the UAE and other Gulf states to enable it to reduce its cultivation of crops like olives and wine, which are geared mainly to the European market, in favour of increased output of grains, sugar and animal fodder. This would help the country to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and also provide exports for new markets in North Africa and the Middle East.

Ironically Sudan, the one country in the region which has the greatest agricultural potential, is facing cutbacks in its agricultural budgets and in its plans to expand cultivated land area. A combination of bad planning, poor infrastructure and the lack of suitably trained manpower has led to severe setbacks in government plans to make the country the "breadbasket" of the Arab world.

Last year Khartoum began an agricultural reform programme which aims to consolidate existing projects and to restore the country's traditional reliance on cotton exports. Aid from the World Bank, Britain and West Germany is being used to expand power generation in the rural areas and to improve transport. More tractors, irrigation pumps and fertilisers imported from abroad have been used to improve output in the irrigated areas and additional technical assistance is being sought to improve cotton yields, which had fallen to only two kantars per feddan (one kantar is approximately 56kg, a feddan 0.45 hectares) last year. Government-run sugar plantations are being re-organised, and some may be turned over to the private sector. However, the reform programme will take time to achieve its goals, and many observers doubt whether outside aid will be sufficient to assure success.

Sudan's experience shows that money and good intentions alone are not enough to improve agricultural output. Despite huge investment by the Gulf states and by the Khartoum government, many of its projects have turned out to be failures, or have not progressed from the drawing board to the field. Without the participation of the farmers in the planning, adequate training facilities

and the necessary roads, power and marketing installations, even those projects which get under way face obstacles that can actually reduce fertility. Crops that are harvested can rot if storage and distribution facilities are poorly organised, or in the wrong place.

Falling world prices for commodities such as sugar can mean that projects which do succeed still do not produce sufficient income to justify their development. To be successful, agricultural development programmes must be integrated into the local economy and, preferably, organised on a regional scale as well. It is a lesson that Sudan has learnt to its cost, and one that all the Arab countries would do well to consider as they embark on their huge investment programmes.

Net Gains From Funding Fishing

Although visiting tourists have often commented on the picturesque fishing villages that dot the coastlines of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, it is only in recent years that government planners have taken an interest in their fishing industries. Falling catches, increased pollution and the loss of skilled boatmen to manual labour in the towns has depopulated many villages and led to a dramatic rise in the import of fish and crustacea. Yet fishing, like agriculture, remains a source of livelihood for many, and the need to develop rural areas, combined with the realisation that fish is a vital source of protein, is causing governments throughout the region to increase their investment in this sector.

The move is particularly pronounced in the countries along the Atlantic coast of north-west Africa. Studies conducted by Morocco, the self-proclaimed Saharan Democratic Republic and Mauritania have shown that one of the world's most fertile fishing grounds exists in the area. Estimates made by Moroccan experts indicate that the sardine catch off the coast of southern Morocco and the Western Sahara could rise tenfold, to some 500,000 tonnes a year. Mauritanian officials calculate that two million tonnes of fish are to be found in the country's coastal waters. Here the cold Atlantic currents swelling up through the warmer waters that lie close to the shore provide ideal conditions for the micro-organisms on which larger fish feed. Altogether the country's potential catch is thought to be 760,000 tonnes a year, including 600,000 tonnes of surface fish such as mackerel, tuna and sardines.

However, both Morocco and Mauritania have experienced considerable difficulty in exploiting this abundant undersea wealth. Morocco plans to build major new fishing ports at El Aaiun and at Boujdor in the Moroccan-occupied sector of the Western Sahara as well as at Tarfaya and Tan-Tan in southern Morocco. But the continuing war in the Sahara has hindered construction and led to a shortage of development funds. However, fishing agreements have been signed with Spain and the Soviet Union, both of which operate extensive fleets in the area, to enable the government to modernise its own fleet and to build new refrigerated plants and processing factories. The annual fish catch, which amounted to 275,000 tonnes in the mid-1970s, is now averaging almost 300,000 tonnes a year.

Mauritania's hopes to increase its own foreign currency earnings by exporting fish have been hit by its inability to prevent outsiders exploiting its huge resources. Huge mechanised trawlers from Spain, Portugal, the Soviet Union, Japan and South Korea regularly fish in the area and in the mid-1970s were taking more than one million tonnes of fish a year. A decision by the government in January 1980 to abrogate its existing agreements with foreign fleets to prevent overfishing and to increase Mauritania's share of its own ocean wealth led to a dramatic fall in the catch, to only 145,000 tonnes in 1980. However the signature of new joint venture agreements with Japan, South Korea and the Soviet Union since then has helped to improve matters and government officials are hopeful that these countries will provide funds to build new fishing ports, cold stores and processing plants in the country.

Other efforts to develop fishing are also being made in the countries bordering the Arabian Sea, where another rich fishing ground exists. South Yemen, which has one of the most advanced fishing industries in the Arab world, is hoping to increase its production of processed fish from 87,500 tonnes in 1980 to 196,500 tonnes by the end of 1985. A multi-purpose fisheries project, which includes a fishmeal plant, began operating in Mukallah in 1978 and another major project is under way at Nishtun with funds provided by the EEC, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. The project, which will cost \$33.3m, involves setting up new processing and storage facilities.

In North Yemen a new fishing port is being built at Hodeidah. Another project, costing \$30m, will provide storage and processing facilities at Hodeidah, Khawbah, Al Khaw-

khah and Al Mukha. This should enable the country to increase its fish catch from 12,000 to 21,000 tonnes a year. Another 1,500 tonnes of crustacea – mainly lobster and shrimp – could also be caught once the project is completed. This would be sufficient to provide for local needs and to enable the country to increase its exports to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Sudan.

In Oman concessions covering a fertile area between Masirah and the Kuria Muria islands were awarded to a Japanese fishing consortium in 1976. The South Koreans have also been granted fishing rights in the area, but the government since then has tended to encourage the development of locally-owned fishing companies. A National Fisheries Corporation was set up in 1980 with both state and private participation to provide integrated fishery complexes at Matrah and Salalah. In addition the government is providing soft-loans to fishermen to modernise their boats and equipment. New cold stores and processing plants are also being built to help individual fisherman plying smaller boats to market their catch in the bigger cities and towns. Fish exports, which were worth only \$578,000 in 1980, are expected to quadruple over the next three years. Much of the produce will go to Saudi Arabia and the other countries of the Arabian Peninsula which, like the rest of the Arab world, have had to increase their imports as their own fishing industries have declined.

Hothouse Effect

The use of greenhouses to improve the output of fresh fruits, flowers and vegetables in arid parts of the Arab world is exciting the interest of planners and businessmen alike. Several experimental stations using the latest in horticultural techniques have been established, and the results are promising.

One of the oldest is the station set up on the island of Saadiyat in the UAE in the early 1970s. Today it provides more than 450 tonnes of vegetables a year to the Abu Dhabi market. Another, at the Utoriyah farm in central Qatar, has succeeded in growing cucumbers during the hot month of July, and now hopes to extend the season into August. After a harvest of 140 kilos last year the government is now considering making similar greenhouses available to its own farmers to extend the growing season.

In Bahrain the ministry of agriculture, commerce and fisheries has chosen 10 farms to take part in a new experiment using greenhouses and plastic sheds to enable farmers to grow crops out of season. The head of the

ministry's agricultural extension unit, Hasan Abdul Karim, is confident that the projects will be successful. "Although this may seem an expensive venture, the farmers will find it very profitable in the long run," he said recently. Saudi Arabia, which runs several experimental stations, announced last year that it intends to expand its greenhouse cultivation during the next five years. Some 2,450 hectares will be covered.

While the extensive use of greenhouse cultivation is still relatively expensive, Gulf planners are excited about the new techniques being developed to save both space and costs. The University of Tucson in Arizona, which helped to set up the station at Saadiyat, is using whirling drums, overhead trolleys, vertical growing boards and salt water irrigation systems to increase the output of greenhouses. At its environmental research laboratory, bushbeans, pole beans and corn are grown close to each other so that the beans climb round the corn stocks, so saving space. At the same time the beans, which produce nitrogen in their roots, help to fertilise the corn crops, which are nitrogen-deficient.

Another scheme, using water pools in which floating styrofoam boards hold lettuce plants, is based on new theories about the interdependent "ecosystem" of crop cultivation. Catfish are raised in the floating pools and their waste provides nutrients for the lettuces and for melons grown over them on A-frames. When the lettuce boards are removed at harvest time, the melons can be shaken off into the water unbruised, thereby reducing the need for expensive manual labour.

In the UK the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute in Littlehampton, England, is also experimenting with new nutrient solutions for crops grown in polythene gutters. The nutrients would enable Gulf farmers to take advantage of the area's generous amounts of sunshine while overcoming the problem of salinity in desert soils. In the Netherlands, where greenhouse horticulture is extensive, growers are experimenting with new ways to move crops during their different phases of growth. Roller stages, which can be moved sideways for small distances to create pathways, and conveyor stages, which can be moved to a central handling station for planting or harvesting crops, all help to reduce the need for space in greenhouses and give a higher yield per unit of covered ground. For Saudi Arabia and the other states of the Gulf seeking new ways to reduce their dependence on imported foods, these new products and techniques may play a vital role in efforts to expand local production.

The West Bank was one of the Arab world's most developed agricultural areas before 1967. The influx of hundreds of thousands of hungry refugees after 1948 had made it imperative that resources be rapidly modernised: irrigation, new marketing and packaging methods and cash crops like early vegetables all played their part. By 1967 the West Bank was also producing exportable surpluses of oranges, olive oil, melons, pumpkins, vegetables and grains for eastern Jordan and other Arab neighbours.

Since the Israeli occupation, agriculture has stagnated. One recent study shows that the Israelis have taken over more than half the territory's land area, either for new settlements or for "national security" purposes. Most of the land given to the settlers is among the most fertile, leaving less arable land for the Palestinians to cultivate.

Water resources have also been arrogated:

in 1978, Israeli wells in the Jordan Valley pumped 14.1m cubic metres of water, leaving only 12.1m for those owned by Arabs. Since then other underground supplies have been diverted to new settlements, while wells on Palestinian-owned land have dried up.

The Israeli policy of discouraging industrial ventures in the West Bank has also hindered local agriculture. Barring one tomato paste plant in Hebron, there are no processing plants for local produce. As a result, farmers – already pressed for suitable outlets for fresh produce – find it impossible to preserve foodstuffs for later sale.

The stagnation of West Bank agriculture deprives Palestinians of a major source of livelihood, but the loss is not only theirs. Consumers in neighbouring states would also benefit if the West Bank were again allowed to control, operate and develop its own abundant agricultural resources.

Exploiting Water Resources

As agricultural needs increase the demand for water, Arab governments are seeking new ways to exploit existing resources. The projects range from the construction of desalination plants and pipelines to the distribution of hand-held pumps that can be used by small farmers. New dams are being built throughout the region and there are plans to exploit several big underground aquifers that have been found in Libya, the Arabian Peninsula and northwest Africa. Meanwhile conservation of existing resources and prevention of waste in urban areas continues. Until the new projects are completed, the Arab world's plans to develop agriculture will continue to be hindered by lack of sufficient and regular supplies.

Some of the most ambitious projects are being carried out in Saudi Arabia, where the Saline Water Conversion Corporation has a \$10.2bn budget to develop water resources under the third five-year plan, which runs from 1981 to 1985. One of these, the construction of a 464km twin pipeline from Jubail to Riyadh, will cost \$267m alone. The line, which will connect a 10-unit desalination plant now being built at Jubail with a concrete reservoir outside the capital, will be laid by a consortium led by Mannesman of West Germany. It is to have a capacity of 830,000 cubic metres a day. Other projects include the construction

of 29 new desalination plants to raise the output of purified seawater from 65.4m to 523m cubic metres a year.

The plants will also help the kingdom to increase its power generating capacity, which should reach 3,145 megawatts by the end of 1985. In addition, 37 new concrete or earthfill dams are to be built by the end of the plan period, including one with a storage capacity of 20m cubic metres to serve the Taif region. Additional water supplies are also coming on stream this year from the Wasi and Minjur aquifers located in the central region. Surveys to tap six other big aquifers in the eastern, Qasim and northern regions are due to be completed by the end of 1985.

To ensure that all water is used as efficiently as possible, the kingdom is also encouraging the construction of sewage treatment plants and pipelines to make waste water available to agriculture. One such scheme, costing \$23m, will transport treated water from Riyadh to farms in Raqah and Darayya through a 55km pipeline now being built outside the capital. The line will also provide water for a new "green belt" around Riyadh.

Libya is undertaking what its planners describe as the biggest water pipeline project in the world. Five hundred kilometres long, and with an estimated cost \$7bn, it will transport two million cubic metres of water a

year through large diameter pipes to the coastal towns of Benghazi, Marsa Brega and Sirta, where it will be used both for domestic consumption and for the irrigation of up to 50,000 hectares of agricultural land. Supplies will come from huge underground reserves located in the Sirir and Tazebo regions in the southeastern part of the country, where it is planned to dig several major wells. The contract for the pipeline is likely to go to a consortium of public and private Italian firms.

Several schemes to build dams and reservoirs are also under way in North Africa and in the Middle East. One of the most important involves the construction of two dams to channel the waters of the Senegal river basin that runs through Mauritania, Senegal and Mali. Funds for one of them, to be built on the mouth of the river in Senegal at a cost of \$865m, were provided by the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Fund, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Abu Dhabi, as well as by several European countries and international agencies. The work, which began at the end of last year, includes the construction of a spillway and navigation lock and dykes as well as the dam. In addition, a road linking Saint Louis with Nouakchott in Mauritania is to be built across the dam.

Together with the second major project, the construction of the Manantali dam in Mali, the scheme will help to irrigate 375,000 hectares of land in the three states and increase the production of grains and vegetables fivefold, to 581,000 tonnes a year by 1990.

Drought-stricken Somalia is pinning its economic hopes on the construction of a waterworks complex centred around the huge Bardera dam project. The scheme, which is expected to cost \$500m, will channel the Juba river to provide water for irrigating 200,000 hectares of land and for producing hydro-electric power. Funds for the project are being provided by several Arab states, France and Italy.

In Jordan, efforts to build a new \$500m dam spanning the Yarmouk river on the Syrian border have been delayed by political problems: both Syria and Israel have yet to agree to the project and international aid agencies like the World Bank have been reluctant to lend Jordan funds for the dam until riparian rights in the area are clarified. However, plans to raise the height of the King Talal dam in central Jordan as an interim measure are proceeding well, and there is even talk of building a water pipeline from Iraq to Jordan to make supplies from the Euphrates river available to Amman and other parts of the kingdom.

In the meantime, both private firms and state companies are expanding the network of irrigation systems and canals in the Jordan Valley area and drilling new wells in places like the Azraq oasis to tap existing underground resources. Funds for the purchase of pumps, sprinklers and pipes have been provided by the US, Britain and West Germany.

The UAE, which is building two dams in Ras al Khaimah and Fujairah, is hoping that they will help conserve water previously lost to evaporation. By concentrating the winter flows of water the dams will also make year-round irrigation possible and help to reduce the drain on underground water.

However, as elsewhere in the Gulf states and in the other arid regions of the Middle East, long-term water security in the Emirates depends on the success of conservation and prevention of waste. For this, sound government planning, as well as modern equipment and water control projects, is necessary.

Raising Animal Output

For centuries, the nomadic populations of the Middle East lived off the milk and dairy goods and meat they produced, either for their own consumption or for exchange with town dwellers. However, with the closure of hitherto open grazing lands and the demands of increasing population, many Arab governments have introduced commercial methods to improve the output of poultry, dairy and animal produce.

Western suppliers of livestock, animal feed complexes, poultry farms and dairy processing equipment are now looked to for a wide variety of goods and technical services. With the burgeoning investment in this sector by Gulf and other Arab countries, firms that can adapt to these new markets should do considerable business.

By far the largest projects are in Saudi Arabia, where the government aims to increase annual egg production to 75 million and the number of chickens to 1.3 million by end 1985. By then it is hoped the national dairy herd will have grown to 110,000 head, leading to Saudi self-sufficiency in milk production. A key role will be played by the Saudi Arabian Agriculture and Dairy Company (Saadco), a joint venture set up last year by Prince Abdullah al Faisal and a Lebanese businessman, Farid Wakim.

Management for the company is provided by a Swedish firm, Alfa-Laval, under a seven-year contract. Saadco already owns a 60 sq km site at Al Kharj, near Riyadh, which

supports a 9,000-strong herd and could produce 80,000 litres of milk a day. Under the expansion programme that was begun last year, the farm will eventually support a herd of 25,000 animals, making it the world's largest integrated farm. New dairy processing complexes should bring milk production up to 200,000 litres a day by early next year.

Wakim also plans smaller dairy farms at Jeddah and in the industrial area near Dhahran, in the Eastern province, with Alfa-Laval's assistance. Eventually he hopes Saadco and its farming projects will offer veterinary and other specialist services to Saudi farmers as a contribution to national agricultural development.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, the UAE is experimenting with the raising and acclimatising of imported Holsteins at a farm in Digdagga, Ras al Khaimah, with aid from the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Resources. A large new poultry farm has also been set up, with aid from Kuwait, and egg production now supplies 38 per cent of local needs.

Bahrain also plans to increase its cattle, sheep and goat herds. Desalinated water will be used for the enlarged herds, and treated effluent water exploited to increase local fodder production. The Dilmun Poultry Company, which is largely privately owned, already helps to supply most of Bahrain's eggs and half its chickens. Generous government aid is also anticipated for its planned feedstock mill, and processing plant, which would handle nine million birds a year by 1990.

Qatar, which also plans to use effluent water to increase alfalfa and fodder yields, is concentrating on more sheep and poultry farms in the next decade. Annual egg production already averaged 10 million which fills 80 per cent of local demand.

In both Sudan and Somalia, animal production and marketing is still largely done by the nomadic or semi-nomadic population, although both countries' herds have been badly hit by drought. Sudan is looking to boost this sector by investing in new fodder farms and a broad programme to control animal disease. Marketing networks are also being set up to help minimise the serious weight losses incurred on the long trek between the main producing areas and the population centres where the animals are sold and slaughtered.

In Somalia, the government is setting up an extensive vaccination programme, with UN help. Arab funds have helped to develop the northern rangelands by providing better water supplies, and health and educational assistance for some 300,000 nomads.

A similar scheme is to be launched in the central rangelands over an area of 150,000 sq km. The funds for this project, which could benefit some 400,000 nomads and stockmen, are being provided by the US, Britain and various international agencies. New finishing farms and slaughterhouses are also being set up to prepare meat products for both domestic use and export – chiefly to the Arabian peninsula.

In North Africa, both Libya and Algeria are spending heavily on herd development and on building new poultry, egg and dairy complexes. Among the big projects already under way in Libya is a \$122m dairy and poultry processing plant at Ghat Sultan, near Benghazi. This should eventually yield 9,000 litres of milk a day, from 600 milking cows, and 5.5 million broiling chickens annually. The complex will include an animal feed mill, bottling plants and slaughterhouses, and is being built by a Dutch firm, HVA.

A Danish firm, Danfarm Contractors, is setting up a similar project at Wadi al Hari, south of Tripoli, which is due to cost \$168m. HVA has already won a \$130m contract to build another agro-industrial complex for dairy products and poultry at Taourgha, south of Misrat. Feasibility studies for the three schemes were carried out by Danagro Adviser of Denmark.

Other projects now under way or planned include the construction of three animal feed mills by a West German consortium, at a cost of \$163m; the establishment of 2,000 small farms to breed cattle and other livestock in the Jebel Akhdar region; and the setting up of a large dairy farm at the Kufra oasis, in south-east Libya. Two British firms, Farmkey and Jersey Island Semen Exports, have won the management contract for the small farms projects. Alfa-Laval of Sweden is supervising the Kufra complex, where it will provide a herd of 1,000 dairy cows.

Algeria has allocated \$1.4bn in its 1980-84 development plan solely to animal production and stock-breeding. Additional sums will be spent on improving the marketing and distribution centres, and on new rural medical and scientific services. The state-owned Office National du Lait et des Produits Laitiers is supervising several big dairy projects, some of which are already under way, as well as the construction of new cold stores and milk collection centres. Egg production is expected to rise fivefold to 1.24 million annually by the end of the plan period.

Ironically, Egypt, the one country in the area with great potential for the development of livestock breeding and poultry farming, has seen both its animal numbers and its agro-

production fall in recent years. In 1980, the authorities even had to ban the sale of locally-produced meat for a month as prices soared and profiteers stepped in.

This situation is due to a combination of problems, including water scarcity, disease and poor government planning. One of the greatest difficulties, however, is the lack of animal fodder at an affordable price. Berseem, a type of clover, has got steadily dearer since its growers discovered the export market: producers must now slaughter their cows and buffalo much earlier than usual, rather than pay high fodder prices.

As a result, Egypt's livestock numbers are declining by the year. Poor yields are also a problem – and the indications are that they are still falling. The average Egyptian cow now produces only 700 kilos of milk a year, one tenth the output of a Dutch or Irish Holstein; the average hen in Egypt produces 70 eggs a year, compared with about 300 in Britain. Until the government channels more funds into the sector, and makes it a major part of its development programme, the situation is unlikely to improve.

Plans for Local Processing

Arab governments are becoming increasingly aware of the need to provide their people with locally-manufactured foods both to prevent shortages and to ensure that supplies produced domestically are not wasted. Among the projects envisaged in the next three years are the construction of new flour mills, bakeries, canneries, cold stores, fish processing plants and packaging plants. Saudi Arabia alone has allocated \$800m to the construction of flour mills, silos and millfeed plants by the end of 1985. Among the projects planned are a flour mill at Riyadh capable of producing 400 tonnes of wheat and 70 tonnes of bran a day.

Kuwait is planning to build a new flour mill to raise milling capacity from 250,000 tonnes to 380,000 tonnes a year by 1983. Silo capacity is to rise fourfold, to 72,000 tonnes. Iraq has ordered new cold stores for vegetables and fruit from Hungary and negotiations are under way for the supply of new meat processing

plants. Libya is spending \$40m on the construction of new bakeries in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sebha as part of a programme to increase self-sufficiency in the production of manufactured foods. Italy's Techint Compagnia Tecnica Internazionale hopes to complete the three plants by this autumn.

Bahrain's directorate of fishing has ordered new equipment to provide frozen fillets and peeled shrimps to the local market, while Qatar is seeking to improve its fish refrigeration centres and marketing facilities. In Lebanon private investors are setting up new processing plants, cold stores and packaging companies to supply produce from the rich Beqaa valley to the Gulf market. As agricultural production and fishing receive more emphasis from Arab governments, both public and private firms in the Middle East will be looking to manufacturers of food processing and storage equipment for the equipment they need to ensure efficiency.

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

AMMUNITION CAPTURED--Tel Aviv--The IDF spokesman revealed yesterday that so far the army has captured from the PLO in Lebanon 4,000 tons of ammunition, 144 military vehicles, 12,506 light weapons, 516 heavy weapons (including cannons), 359 items of communication equipment and 795 items of optical equipment. About 70 additional arms caches are now being sorted. But it is believed that some caches have not been uncovered yet, the spokesman added. Army sources estimate that it will take 80 lorries a month to carry the captured equipment to Israel. [Text] [TA250623 Jerusalem JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 82 p 2]

IDB-PDRY AGREEMENT--Jidda, 5 Jul (WAKH)--The Islamic Development Bank [IDB] and the PDRY signed an agreement today whereby the UAE will finance \$10 million worth of crude oil imports for the PDRY. On the bank's behalf the agreement was signed by its director, General Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, and on the PDRY side it was signed by National Yemeni Bank representative 'Abd al-Qawi al-Sa'igh, and Aden refinery representative 'Umar 'Awfi Bamatraf. This agreement is the second of its kind made between the two sides in 1982; the first one was worth \$12 million. [GF060437 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/349

UNITED STATES URGED TO BUILD NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH ISLAM

London ARABIA in English No 10, Jun 82 p 36

[Article by Ismael Faruqi]

[Text]

⊙ Relations between the Muslim world and the United States are spiralling towards confrontation. This is not only unnecessary; it is a tragic development which must be reversed.

For 200 years the image of America in the minds of Muslims was one of a haven where the persecuted could lead lives of religious freedom and piety; and where they could earn from God's bounty to feed and clothe themselves and their families. Until 1945 US involvement in world affairs was rightly conceived by Muslims as being aimed at defending and supporting freedom, self-determination and justice for all peoples. How and why did this great legacy become transformed into the alienation which today threatens another world war?

The ascent of the European powers to world domination in the last three centuries was at least partly achieved by fragmenting the Muslim world and subjecting the resulting small nation states to colonialist exploitation. Although many of these colonial powers were allies of the United States, it nevertheless often supported Muslim countries in their struggles to win back their independence. But then, after World War II, it found itself in a new situation: it needed to fill the power vacuum left by a receding Europe and to satisfy the insatiable appetite of its economy for raw materials and markets.

These two needs were legitimate and could have been met to the satisfaction of all parties. The power that threatened the US, namely Communism, posed an equal threat to Islam; and raw materials and manpower could have been exchanged for the goods and services which the Muslim world needed for the development of its economies. Yet US-Muslim relations deteriorated to the stage they have reached today. What went wrong?

The answer to this question is written in the events of the last 35 years. Unfortunately, the US has opted to occupy the place vacated by the colonialist powers; colonialism has been replaced by "neo-colonialism." The US thought that its legitimate fight against Communism gave it the right to silence the voices of the oppressed seeking a place for themselves in the sun. This misguided arrogance resulted from a superiority complex reinforced by the fact that most Muslims are Asians or Africans.

Running counter to every principle enshrined in the Constitution, this policy had nothing to commend it ideologically. In practice it has been a disaster. To keep the Muslim world divided into so many petty states, few of which are viable; to encourage corrupt dictators to rule by arbitrary decree and secret police; to plant and nurture in each country vested interests antagonistic to unity and cooperation within and without; to transform some countries into "client" states; to present to them western patterns as the only form of development; to plunder their natural resources and force on them unwanted consumer goods and armaments - these are the ingredients of unrest and instability.

Nearly everywhere, these disastrous US policies have polarised the people against their rulers. They have set almost every Muslim country on the road to revolution. Still the

policies continue and still Muslims are being further radicalised: escape from the status quo to *any* other order has become increasingly justifiable in their eyes. The tragedy is that it is so often the Soviet Union – the common enemy of both the US and Islam – which is the main beneficiary.

Yet there is real hope that the Soviet Union will in future no longer be able so easily to ride on the backs of the crises caused by US "neo-colonialism." The Muslim world is witnessing a worldwide, youth-led resurgence. Disillusioned with the western-oriented policies of their governments, the young are infused with the idealism and enthusiasm of Islam, and are willing, as events in Iran have shown, to sacrifice themselves for the cause. They are indefatigably anti-Communist. Committed to a theistic view of the world, they are self-disciplined, practising a strict puritanism, and seeking to establish the Islamic ideal of an egalitarian, just and universal brotherhood. In practice and in principle, Communism is their worst enemy.

The growth of this revolutionary movement is a fortunate development for the West, providing as it does a timely opportunity to launch a new policy and create a new alignment. Could not the US and this movement forge a formidable alliance to fight Communism and to cooperate together for mutual benefit?

The shortsighted will answer negatively. For them, the Muslim world is "coloured" and hence fit only for colonisation. It is different and therefore "alien." It was religiously

opposed to the West and it still is; it is, in short, committed to eternal confrontation. A tradition of dealing with it has been established which is costly to change. If the US is to defend Muslims against Communism, they must submit to a permanent US military presence, to economic domination and to social hegemony. Otherwise, runs the current US philosophy, let them perish, even if their loss is equally a loss to the US and the free world.

The intelligent, on the other hand, will realise that Islam is the religion closest to Christianity; that Islamic culture has been a primary foundation for western culture; that the Muslim revolutionary youth of today are the nearest embodiments of the traditional American revolutionary ideal.

Such people understand that the way forward is a US-Muslim world relationship based on mutual respect and interdependence. They are fully aware that such a change in policy cannot but be complex and, in the short term at least, costly to the US. But they calculate that the price to be paid is far less in the long run than the loss to themselves and the world of region after region to Communist domination.

If the US is truly concerned about the spread of Communism, it must help the Muslim world stand on its own feet. Puppets cannot do the job, no matter how many armaments they are given. Islam alone is capable of uniting and motivating the Muslim peoples. Without that ideal, Muslim countries will continue to fall one after another to the Communist world, dragging the West with them to the abyss.

REGIME CALLS FOR PUBLIC OBSERVANCE OF RAMADAN

Koran Recitals in Mosques

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

KABUL, June 16 (Bakhtar)— The complete recitation of holy Koran will take place in 220 congregational and other mosques during the month of Ramadan.

Ninetyfour mosques will complete the recitation in the first 10 days, 73 in the second and 53 at the third 10 days.

The schedule for the recitation in the Kabul congregational mosques, prepared and printed by

the general directorate of the Islamic affairs department, is on display on the walls of all the city mosques.

It will be announced through mass media including the Radio, TV and newspapers for public information.

Islam Guaranteed by Fundamental Principles

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 21 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

The holy month of Ramadan, which the noble and Muslim people of Afghanistan are preparing to observe, is a month of bounty and blessing. It is a month of worship and practice of self-discipline.

The religious people of Afghanistan have great trials and tests to undergo in this holy month. One of them is to master the spirit of lasciviousness and, with chastity and firm determination, dev-

ote oneself to worship of Almighty God. Another is to undertake, with continued dedication, to serve the people and the homeland, which is also considered a great form of worship, work towards the blossoming of the country, serve the toiling man and safeguard the dignity of man.

The month of Ramadan teaches all Muslims that they can maintain their inner peace and harmony even in the face of hard-

ship and sufferings. Human soul can rest if religious obligations are fulfilled.

The sacred religion of Islam calls on every Muslim to abstain from telling untruth, from leading an unchaste life, from doing harm to their fellowmen, from killing, stealing and attacking the honour of others.

It is a matter of gratification that the inviolability of the sacred religion of Islam has been guaranteed in the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Under these principles, which serve as provisional Constitution of the country, all our Muslim people have the complete freedom to perform their religious obligations.

Moreover, all the needed facilities are made available by the Government to help the Afghan Muslim people perform their religious services during the holy month of Ramadan and throughout the year.

Very often, one can read in the newspaper that the

foundationstone of a new mosque is laid in one or another part of the country and the newly built ones are put at the service of worshippers. Numerous mosques in the country have been rebuilt and repaired and plans are underway to build more mosques. Only recently we were witness to opening a very majestic and modern congregational mosque in Wazir Akbar Khan, a plush residential area in the city.

During the holy month of Ramadan, added facilities are provided for the religious Muslim people of Afghanistan. According to a report of the Islamic affairs department, in the holy month this year, in some two hundred mosques in Kabul, 'tarawah' prayers and recitation of holy Koran will be offered. The same is true about the provincial centres, towns and even villages—a testimony to the respect and reverence paid to the sacred religion of Islam in our free and revolutionary country.

Our toiling compatriots ha-

ve fully realised that imperialism, hegemonism and reaction, these enemies of the well-being and prosperity of the toiling man, after the popular regime was established and consolidated in this country, began to label themselves as "true defenders of Islam", and seek to abuse the pious beliefs of our people to achieve their own vile designs. However, it is a matter of pleasure that the true nature and the base designs of the enemies of our country are being exposed and unmasked one after another, and none of our compatriot is ready to be deceived again by such trickery.

The Muslim and free-born people of Afghanistan see in practice and in the course of their routine life that all decisions and measures adopted by the DRA Government are fully compatible with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. Thus, they consider it as their national, historical and religious duty to fully and unreservedly support such a Government, whose sole objective is to serve the people.

INTERVIEW WITH LUTFI AL-KHULI

Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 1 Mar 82 p 3

[Interview with Lutfi al-Khuli by AL-'ALAM: "Establishment of National Coalition Government and Democratic Constitution For Egypt, and Restoration of Relations With Arabs", date and place not specified]

[Test] Prince Fahd's plan is the way out of the crisis, and it could have played a positive part if its fundamentals has been improved and if it had been supported by non-aligned countries.

What is needed is the unity of the national forces which demand a change in order to deal with the serious implications of the Egyptian question, which cannot be handled alone by any single party, movement, individual or authority.

Reunion with the Arabs will be achieved by starting with a mass encounter in order to create a new climate and then holding a general Arab summit conference.

A new democratic constitution must be established. Without it, it is impossible to go past the state of violence and counter-violence, as well as the negative aspects of the so-called multiple-party experiment. The national forces in Egypt have for the first time brought up their concept of the new political and economic procedure with reference to President Husni Mubarak's regime. They have also brought up their demands concerning the establishment of a democratic way of living, the constitution of a national coalition government and the establishment of a new constitution in order to go past the stage of violence and counter-violence, which characterized President al-Sadat's regime.

The Egyptian national forces have for the first time expressed their ideas and plans aiming at collaring the attempts of Israel to dwarf the Arab role of Egypt and at restoring the bridges between Egypt and the Arab forces, in order to consolidate the progress of the fight against Zionism and its ambitions.

These concepts were presented by the well known writer and politician, Lutfi al-Khuli, during an interview in Paris, while he was packing his suitcase to go back to Egypt after a 6-month absence, during which he was wanted by the Egyptian security department.

[Question] It is obvious that the new regime in Egypt has started turning a new page with the opposition forces. What do you think?

[Answer] I must make clear that the people put under arrest last September by President al-Sadat were arrested under a political decision issued by al-Sadat against the opposition forces, which had rallied together and become united unto a single rank against his policy. The late president used all his resources to resort to repression and terrorism against his opponents. Since President Husni Mubarak has said that he will start a new page, I personally imagine that he should issue a counter-decision, to start this new page, which will set free all the political prisoners put in jail by al-Sadat, without exception. I hope that the new government in Egypt will assume a position which will match its wish to start anew.

In order to start this new page, President Husni Mubarak must also abolish the ethics law, which is neither constitutional nor democratic. I do not see why, under the new president's regime, this law should remain a pretext to threaten the members of the opposition, thinkers, politicians and newspapermen, or people who have different opinions.

It was in the name of this undemocratic law that men of intellectual prominence went to jail and concentration camps, which is contrary to the most elementary notion of freedom.

I believe that it is now necessary to assume a general position to start this new page in a concrete way. I personally do not see why the arbitrary measures and regulations, through which al-Sadat wanted to retaliate against his opponents, should continue to exist. It is true that it was nice of him to release some of the people who had been imprisoned, but that measure is not enough if it is not extended to all of them. The same thing applies with reference to suspended newspapermen and college professors. I do not see why some may go back to work while others cannot.

Two Phases for the Rally Party

[Question] The opposition has agreed with President Husni Mubarak about the progress of which everybody is aware. What is your position regarding the decisions made by the party to which you belong?

[Answer] It is true that the opposition, with the various parties which it includes, currently agrees positively with the views expressed by President Husni Mubarak. With reference to the party to which I belong, that is the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], it has already gone through two phases.

The first was when it adopted a position opposed to the election of President Husni Mubarak at the time of the referendum about the presidency of the republic. That was because President Mubarak had said that we would pursue al-Sadat's policy and methods. Our party said that it was not against al-Sadat as a person, but that it opposed his policy. Since the president said that he would follow the same policy, the party had to say "no" at the referendum.

The second phase was when the party and its leaders, who were not among those who had been arrested, found that there were some positive indications in President Mubarak's policy, such as the release of some prisoners, the improved treatment of those who were still in jail, his raising of the slogan of productional relaxation instead of unrestrained consumerism, the fact that he put an end to all the anti-Arab campaigns conducted by the government under President al-Sadat's regime, and so forth. That party found that such indications made it necessary for it, in the political field, to go along with reality, respond to these undertakings, and try to put them into practice, and contribute to create a new climate for the sake of bringing changes in Egypt.

It was on this basis that the central committee met and made a decision in this connection, which will ensure harmony with President Mubarak's policy. Naturally, I personally think that my brothers in the party, who currently are living in Egypt, are more capable than I am to have clear picture of the situation. Since I am a member of this party and have faith in both its cadres and programs, I have to comply with its basic views in this context, even if I believe--also in the context of this situation--that the key to the crisis in Egypt is that we should try, with all the national forces calling for changes and for saving Egypt the increasingly worse situation, to come up with a practical plan in this context.

Saving Egypt

As I see it, such a program, around which all the national forces may rally, might include a demand that all prisoners, without exception, be released. This includes those who belong to Islamic associations with Muslim Brotherhood tendencies, which were arrested by President al-Sadat in September, since it is certain that they had nothing to do with al-Sadat's murder, and that they were punished merely because they were politically opposed to him. That must also include the reinstatement of all college professors, newspapermen and writers who were forced to leave their jobs, the required consolidation of the democratic way and non-interference in the affairs of trade and other unions, as well as the end of the dangerous and undemocratic interference with both newspapermen's and lawyers' unions, against which harsh measures were taken by President al-Sadat, and which were suspended in the name of the law. This reversal is imperative. In my opinion, this might be the most important feature of the new page which the new regime wants to start.

The basic requirements, about which the national forces may be unanimous in their suggested program, include the question of the arsenal of freedom-restricting laws and regulations--which have become a unique of how to inhibit human will in the Egyptian citizen--such as the so-called ethics law, the political suspicion law, and so forth. Another important and basic point is the necessity to let the trial of the people accused of being responsible for al-Sadat's murder be open to the public and conducted before public courts of law, because the Egyptian people needs to know the political truth about the motives of the murder and how the phenomenon of violence has come into being in the Egyptian political life, since it is foreign to the traditional Egyptian way and its history, so that we may learn from it the lessons needed to put an end to such a phenomenon and prevent its resurgence.

Economic Recovery

Economic relaxation, I think, is a topic which should be included in the suggested national program. Under President al-Sadat's regime, the relaxation policy actually was the expression of a domestic "Camp David," which contributed to impoverish the vast majority of the citizens in favor of a limited and selected number of people, which--in my estimation--did not exceed 2,400 families according to statistics. That ruined the national economic and the productivity of Egyptian society, and shattered Nasir's industrialization and progress experiment.

This matter must be brought up at an economic conference, at which all economic trends will be represented, and that must be seen and heard by the people's forces and masses. I recently read that President Mubarak did start to call for the meeting of such a conference. What I wish is that it will include representatives of all economic trends and schools, to evaluate the economic relaxation policy and its results, and as an attempt to define an urgent plan to save the national economy, consolidate economic independence, meet the primary requirements of the Egyptian citizen, and draw up a long-range plan to revamp the line of general economic development.

I also believe that it is necessary--within the national program--to abolish the recent law issued by President al-Sadat concerning the conviction of anyone who attacks or criticizes Camp David or the peace treaty with Israel, and to allow people to talk about this agreement, which President al-Sadat alone decided to conclude, also in order to find out about the opinion of the people. I believe that this is necessary not only to make the Egyptian citizen aware of the situation, but also to help the present regime stand up to the Israeli arrogance which we have noticed every step of the way.

Reunion With the Arabs

[Question] How do you conceive the possibility for Egypt to go back to the Arabs or for the Arabs to come back to Egypt?

[Answer] I believe that reunion with the Arabs is possible. For this purpose, the Egyptian national forces should try to prepare and arrange for the meeting of a conference including all the factions of the Arab liberation movements, and submit to them an agenda concerning the particulars of a line of action to deal with the present situation with Israel and the United States, and their attempts at beating the Arab liberation forces. Through a democratic and responsible dialogue, I believe that it is possible to determine some general lines representing the unanimous ideas of the Arab people's forces and give the Arab masses a new part to play in the Israeli struggle, because it was the absence of the masses which ultimately led us to most defeats.

I believe that such a conference will create a new climate, which can help President Mubarak call for the holding of an emergency Arab summit conference, to which he will explain that which he has inherited from the Camp David policy, and which will make the Arabs face a definite responsibility in the light of the decisions of the conference of the Arab people's forces.

It will accordingly be possible to establish sound and secure bases for the return of Egypt to the Arabs, and the return of the Arabs to Egypt. We will thus go past the Camp David dead end, and be able to collar it.

[Question] When do you think Egypt may act in an Arab way? Immediately after the Israeli evacuation?

[Answer] Now. Why should we wait until after 25 April? We must free ourselves from the bondage which the Israelis wanted to plant deeper in our minds. It also is absolutely impermissible to let our political moves depend passively on the specific date of the Israeli evacuation.

How Will Egypt Regain Its Spirit?

[Question] However, can the national forces in Egypt, as you say, act in an Arab way under the conditions currently prevailing in Egypt?

[Answer] In order to make it possible for Egypt, with its national forces and parties, to move in line with the Arabs' orientation, Egypt must first of all regain its spirit. In order to come out of the present crisis, I believe that Egypt should start with the following principal and important lines:

1. Establishment of a union or national coalition between the national forces, whatever their tendencies and ideologies may be, for the purpose of participating in the required genuine change, which has become urgently required after the deep reaction caused by President al-Sadat's assassination. This is the change which currently reflects the firm wish of all Egyptians to start a new page.

Such a vast rally of all political forces in Egypt must include the enlightened forces, either in the Islamic groups or religious movements as whole, the wise and educated forces aware of the gravity of the situation, as well as the national elements within the ruling party.

To sum up, what is needed is the unity of the national forces which want to have a change, without having to eliminate the respective characteristics and ideologies of these forces. What is required is a real "national unity" in order to handle the serious implications of the Egyptian question, which has become a great concern and whose serious implications cannot be handled alone by any single party, movement, individual or authority.

2. The next step is the establishment of a genuine administrative machinery to operate within this national framework, that is by establishing a national coalition government representing the live forces capable to bring about the required change, and which will actually enjoy credibility vis-a-vis the Egyptian public opinion as well as the Arab public opinion as a whole. Such a government would be capable of confronting Israeli and American pressures, and would be able to contribute to the determination of a new formula of joint Arab action, through which Egypt will again represent the leading center of gravity in this matter.

3. Such a "national coalition" government will have to undertake the preparation of the third step, that is the supervision of the election of a constituent assembly whose task will be to establish a new democratic constitution reflecting the people's real will, and without which it would be impossible to go past the phase of violence and counter-violence, as well as the negative aspects of the so-called multiple-party experiment. This new constitution will have to define the new strategic options--economic, political and social--superseding the choices personally made by President al-Sadat himself, and whose deadly failure has been demonstrated.

These steps, I believe, are inspired by the principal lines included in the plans and documents of the party to which I belong.

Relations With Soviets

[Question] With reference to the new page started by the new regime in Egypt, do you think that the resumption of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union is an urgent necessity?

[Answer] According to the news, Egypt has started renewing its relations, previously suspended by President al-Sadat, with the Soviet Union. I believe this is a positive step, since no government conscious of its interests and the interests of its people--and which today plays its own part in the international arena--can afford to simply ignore the Soviet Union or the United States of America without isolating itself from the two most important forces of today's world, whose interests are intertwined.

In the context, what is important is that the relations of Egypt with both big powers should be inspired by the non-alignment policy, considering that Egypt was one of the creative forces by which this policy was devised. Consequently, based on the principle of non-alignment, our party is firmly against the polarization of either one of the two big powers. This does not mean that there is no difference between the Soviet Union--which supplies us with weaponry and whose position is favorable to the Arab causes--and the United States, which is aligned against us with Israel and even refuses to have any dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

We personally cannot ignore the fact that we have to deal with the United States of America. However, at the same time, we are against the granting of any military facilities or bases since we already refuse to grant such facilities to the Soviet Union.

Egypt or Israel

[Question] How do you foresee the future relations between Egypt and Israel in the light of the rapprochement which has been achieved to date at the expense of Arab relations? And has the fight between Egypt and Israel ended once and for all?

[Answer] A basic point should be taken into consideration when we talk about the struggle between the Arabs and Israel, and that is the fact that the Arab East area, which is the strategic heart of the world, has increased in importance owing to its oil wealth. This area cannot tolerate the simultaneous

existence of two strong powers among the countries which it comprises on its soil. That must be either Egypt or Israel. In other words, the real fight is between Egypt--which is related to the Arab fatherland--and Israel, which was planted in this area by imperialism for the purpose of dwarfing the historical part played by Egypt, so that Israel may become the strongest power and the most advanced civilization in the industrial, technological and military fields, while the Arabs would remain backwards peasants around it.

As I said, the basic obstacle in the way of the realization of the Israeli dream is Egypt. This is the essence of the imperiliast Zionist project. Israel is trying to dwarf Egypt, I also said, because Israel cannot eliminate Egypt, whereas Arab Egypt can overcome the Zionist plot in the area.

I again say that, based on this concept, the prevention of the progress of this Zionist entity has become a primordial and vital matter with reference to the sole interest of Egypt, if I may say so, before the interest of the Palestinian people or the Arab people as a whole.

To conclude, there may be no reconciliation with Israel, particularly with reference to Egypt, which carries its own historic and vital weight in the Pan-Arab movement. Consequently, any attempt at freezing this struggle and putting it in cold storage is both useless and impossible.

[Question] How do you see the way out, now? Is it at all possible for Egypt to play an prominent role after what happened?

[Answer] It is possible to find a way out from time to time until the dispute is settled in favor of the Arabs. This needed way out, both for the Arabs and Egypt, may create some sort of relative stabilization and contribute to help us pull ourselves together and accordingly achieve some kind of progress or improvement in the area. I wish at this point to stress that the way out of the crisis should not be confused with the actual solution of the crisis. However, it may contribute to the evacuation of the evacuation of the Israeli from all occupied Arab lands and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, whose capital would be Jerusalem. I believe this is possible and may at the same time give a new impetus to find the final solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle.

[Question] Will Israel agree?

[Answer] Of course not. Israel will be against all this, and the Arab-Israeli struggle will necessarily continue to flare up, whatever relapses there may be in the Arab position and whatever strength there may be in the Israeli military position, because both the recurrence and outbreak of the fight are unavoidable. The condition concerning the subject matter still exist, and conflicting factors are increasing in intensity, particularly after the appearance of what I will call "oil-producing Palestine," which is the Arab Gulf area. After Camp David and the disappearance of Arab Egypt, Israel has now become more vicious than ever before throughout its history. It is thus that Israel strikes at the Iraqi nuclear reactor, threatens to hit the nuclear reactor in Tripoli, and its planes fly over Arab military bases and oil wells. I would not be surprised, if the present state of disintegration continues to exist, to see Begin suddenly appear in front of us and demand his right to Arab oil.

[Question] What is your evaluation of Prince Fahd's project?

[Answer] This project might be included in what I call the way out of the crisis. This project could have played an active part as a way out of the crisis, if it had been patronized by the international family, including the Soviet Union. I would have liked it better if Saudi Arabia had tried, along with the Arab family, to convince the Third World nations or the countries following the non-alignment policy of the validity of the project, so that they might also have supported it and proposed in their own name, in which case it might have had some effect internationally.

The Arabs should have taken some action through the diplomatic political battle to respond to that which is presented by both Israel and the United States under the name of suggested solutions. We must realize that such an Arab action is merely a way to come out of the crisis, and not a solution to it. With this in mind, it is possible to take into consideration the Saudi project, which could have played a positive part if it had been improved by the addition of the fundamentals about which I spoke.

I believe that this was the opinion of the Liberation Organization as well as of the National Rally Party to which I belong.

Return to Egypt

[Question] Let us go back to your own situation, and ask you why you did not return to Egypt until now.

[Answer] I left Egypt in August 1981 for the periodic medical treatment of my heart condition. In September President al-Sadat issued his decision to launch a general campaign of arrests and firings, and took various other measures against all the forces of the opposition, whatever their tendencies might be, because they opposed both his domestic and foreign policy, particularly Camp David and the so-called peace treaty with Israel.

President al-Sadat's life subsequently came to a tragic end, and President Mubarak came into power. He started releasing some of the people who had been arrested, and some decisions were successively issued to let previously suspended college professors and newspapermen return to their jobs. There also was the case fabricated by the late president against a number of persons belonging to the opposition, which included me. That was the so-called case of the creation of a national coalition front as an illegal organization bent on overthrowing the prevailing regime with the cooperation of the Soviet Union and the Islamic groups at the same time.

The case was investigated by the office of the public prosecutor, and the investigation with a dismissal of the case because no evidence was found. The public prosecutor called a press conference and made that known. However, the decision to end both proviso and detention was not extended to me, and the reinstatement decision did not include me so that I might return to my work at AL-AHRAM. I do not wish at this point to be personal and say that I may be the only one regarding whom no decision has been issued to be allowed to go back to work and resume writing as a newspaperman.

[Question] By what authority is such a decision issued?

[Answer] The decision is issued, I believe, by President Husni Mubarak on the basis of recommendations made by the socialist prosecutor and the public prosecutor's office.

[Question] Is it possible that the decisions abrogating both proviso and detention did not include you because you are abroad?

[Answer] There are some people who are abroad, and to whom those decisions applied. For example, our colleague Mr Husayn Fahmi was allowed to go back to work, in spite of the fact that he was abroad. As far as I am concerned, I have been contacted by some members of the party to which I belong, as well as by the chairman of the newspapermen's union, because I am a member of its board in charge of the freedom defense committee. They told me that I could go back, but that I had to go through a period of detention at the hospital of al-Qasr, and that I had to appear before the socialist prosecutor, after which he would take into consideration the measures which may be taken regarding the ending of my detention and my return to work.

Whatever the case may be, regardless of this or that, I have personally decided to go back to Egypt. I consider this to be my right as an Egyptian citizen. As soon as the medical treatment is over by the end of this month, as it was originally decided that it should last for 6 months, I shall return to Egypt. As long as somebody deals with public affairs, he must be ready for anything.

2693

CSO: 4504/211

NEW VILLAGES IN SINAI

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Feb 82 p 7

[Article by Fathi Rizq: "What Is Happening Outside Cairo?"]

[Text] Tents and Shantytowns Disappear From Sinai Desert;
Nine New Villages Totalling 675 Dwellings To House Bedouins
In Northern Coastal Area and Central Plains.

The rural community in the Sinai is currently changing at rocket speed. Huts, shantytowns and tents are disappearing and replaced by homes and housing units built with yellow rubblework and baked bricks. For the first time in the history of the Sinai, Bedouin families and clans are trying to outdo one another in order to get a new dwelling to buy or rent after living for years and years in tents and huts.

Nine new villages are about to be completed in the northern and central sectors of the Sinai, and they look like the modern villages of the Nine Valley governorates. New signs of life have started to appear in the villages of Bi'r al-'Abd, Ramad, Baludhah, Rabi'ah and Najilah in the northern area, as well as in the villages of Nakhl, al-Hasanah, Baghdad and al-Jafjafah in the central plains, after elementary and preparatory schools were established in these villages in addition to a youth center, a girls' workshop, a sanitation unit, a social unit, a police station and a shopping center.

It Started In Rummanah

As Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, Governor of Northern Sinai, said, it started in Rummanah, when the construction of 173 new houses was started in the village of Rummanah by the governorate with the help of the building department. Families' applications unexpectedly were more numerous than the available houses, and the families immediately moved to the new buildings. The experiment was subsequently extended to Baludhah, where 50 houses were built and subsequently distributed to local people. The houses of three other villages will soon be distributed. These villages are Bi'r al-'Abd, which has become a town and in which 192 houses have been built, Rabi'ah with 100 houses and Najilah with 50 houses. The construction of the houses in Bi'r al-'Abd should be completed by next March, and the houses in Rabi'ah and Najilah by next April, at the time of the celebrations of the governorate for the last phase of the evacuation.

Four New Villages

After the success of the renovation in Northern Sinai, the governor said, we have started to work on it in the central area, where new villages have been built after the same pattern in al-Hasanah, Nakhl, Baghdad and al-Jafjafah. These villages total 200 houses, in addition to the basic water and electric power facilities, and all the integrated services concerning education, health, social affairs, youth and security, as well as day nurseries, girls' workshops and shopping centers.

The Bedouins' settlement experiment, the governor said, has been successful beyond our expectations. We currently have a waiting list containing the applications of families which were unable to get any desert habitation or housing unit. The governorate will continue to build modern desert homes in all the Bedouin concentrations in Northern Sinai to make sure that all the Bedouins may settle down for the first time in the history of the area. The insistence of the governorate on the prompt implementation of these housing projects was an incentive for the local people to volunteer their help to build the town. More than 5,000 housing units in the form of modern buildings are under construction at the same time in every section of the town, along the avenues and the beaches. We have allocated 800 plots of land in al-Masa'id district to the people of al-'Arish to build new apartment buildings, in addition to water and electric power processing projects and the construction of administrative compounds for the various services. The picture is the same in Southern Sinai, where modern villages have started sprouting up around the hills, water springs, farms and small grazing land areas, where Egyptian arms are speedily working at changing the face of life in the Sinai desert.

2693

CSO: 4504/211

BRIEFS

SENTENCING OF SYRIAN SPIES--The supreme state security court in Cairo yesterday sentenced an Egyptian translator, who works in Paris, to 5 [sic] years hard labor for their collaboration with the Syrian intelligence agency for the purpose of challenging the Egyptian regime. The sentence was issued by court consisting of Chief Justice Mahmud Riyad al-Zaydi, Justices Nahad Khallaf and Sirry Siam, and Court Secretary Muhammad Yusuf. The investigation services of the supreme state security court had learned that some Egyptian students and people working in Paris had formed an organization by the name of the Egyptian Students' League in Paris, whose purpose was to challenge basic institutions in Egypt, incite people to oppose the Egyptian authorities, and stir up the masses against them. Together with some Syrian intelligence agents, some of them conducted sabotaging activities in Egypt in order to cause domestic disturbances and try to overthrow the Egyptian ruling regime existing in the country. That was during the period ranging from 1979 to early 1981. Detectives were able to arrest Kamal Fawzi Hanin (40-year old translator) and Tawfiw 'Abd-al-Hadi Hasanayn (26-year old student) when they arrived in Cairo, but Hasan al-Banna Muhammad Hindi (student) managed to escape. They were brought for trial before the supreme state security court, which sentenced the first one to 7 years hard labor and the other two to 5 years hard labor. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Feb 82 p 7] 2693

CSO: 4504/211

SOUTH LEBANON ATTACK 'AIMED AT ISLAMIC REPUBLIC'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jun 82 p 1

[Text]

ISFAHAN (IRNA) — The commander of the Islamic republic's Ground Forces Colonel Sayyad Shirazi proposed that the country's officials keep the evidence of Saddam's crimes intact in Khorrareshahr as a war memorial.

Colonel Sayyad Shirazi was talking at the commemoration ceremony of the first anniversary of Martyrdom of Mostafa Chamran Monday.

In Isfahan, referred to the development in the Armed Forces after the revolution and said that the internal and external plots, such as the imposed war and the recent Zionist attack against Southern Lebanon were undertaken to damage the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Colonel Shirazi also talked about the operations which led to the liberation of Khorramshahr.

In another part of his

speech Sayyad Shirazi outlined the Iranian conditions for peace with Baghdad and said that the Iranian combatants were ready to remove Saddam and his colleagues.

Referring to the recent trip of the Iranian delegation to Syria and negotiations concerning the aggression of the Zionist regime against Southern Lebanon he said that Iran Syria have established Qods station between Syria and Lebanon which would be the center of Muslims operation.

He then referred to Saddam's plot and said that despite the recent conspiracies of Saddam, Iran did not consider the war as being concluded and would continue the war until the overthrow of Saddam, and holding prayers in Karbela.

Treading the path to Qods would then be the next step, Colonel Shirazi concluded.

'WE SEEK NOTHING IN IRAQ BUT OUR RIGHTS,' SAYS RAFSANJANI

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jun 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani commenting on Monday's statement of Imam Khomeini concerning the recent Iraqi announcement on the retreat of its forces, said yesterday that one of the most important objectives of the Zionist aggression against Southern Lebanon had been to overshadow Iran's victories in the Iraqi imposed war.

Rafsanjani, speaking in yesterday's Majlis open session said as the Imam stated, a great part of the Iranian combatants should be freed from the Iraqi war and be dispatched to the Lebanese front to fight as this region weighed heavily in determining the future for Iranians and all Islamic states. With the Imam's statements and his firm position, Iran's path had once again become clear Rafsanjani added.

"We seek nothing in Iraq but our rights and we will not ignore our rights which are the rights of Islam, oppressed people of the region, and Muslim people of Iraq," the Majlis speaker remarked.

He added that the Holy Month of Ramadan would be the month of victory for Islam and the defeat of blasphemy which would be a new turning point in the Islamic history.

As the first speaker of the yesterday's Majlis open session Mohsen Sayyedin, Imam Khomeini's representative to the Majlis asked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to approach further those countries which are at war with the US and Zionist regime. He also asked for establishing more relations with the freedom-fighting movements of the world.

Indicating the external affairs of the country, Sayyedin requested the removal of existing economic bottle-necks and said that the responsible officials should honestly explain the prevalent problems which are weighing on the shoulders of the people the lower and middle classes in particular.

Later, he asked all propaganda centers or all organs which are active in publicity affairs to form a center in the Islamic Guidance Ministry to coordinate all

concerned activities.

According to the IRNA, other deputies later focused on the law, concerning the activities of different political groups in Iran of whom one was representative from Khoy, northwestern of Iran. He asked the Interior Minister, Hujjat ul-Islam Nateq Nouri to explain the delay, in the implementation of the law, related to the political activities of political factions in Iran.

In reply to the Khoy deputy Nateq Nouri said that taking into account the significance of the law, related to factions, a special commission was assigned to spell out the terms for the formulation of the law. The commission consisted of representatives from Legislative, Judiciary bodies and one from Interior Ministry itself, he added.

The report concluded that the deputies later approved the addition of some new articles to the bill on 'law on the amalgamation of the Judiciary organizations of the Army to Justice Ministry.' Members of the Guardian Council of the Constitution took part in the discussions prior to approval.

EMIGRE PAPER WARNS AGAINST ATTENDING PARIS SEMINAR

NC071107 Paris France IRAN-E AZAD in Persian 3 Jul 82 p 5

[Text] We have received information stating that a group of political opportunists have invited combatant individuals and organizations to participate in a meeting to be held between 9 and 11 July in a Paris suburb hotel. Air tickets have been sent to the guests and their stay in Paris will be paid for by the Front for the Salvation of Iran. Since a number of patriots and monarchists are among the guests, IRAN-E AZAD considers it its duty to inform the participants of the purpose of this "seminar" or "conference" and of the nature of its hosts, so that the guests will not unknowingly become tools in the hands of a group which hides its true nature and treacherous activities under the label of "struggling against Khomeyni" and "the salvation of Iran."

The main objective of this seminar is to hide the failure of the Front for the Salvation of Iran in and to attract the attention of combatant Iranians who have refused to join the front after realizing the record of its leaders and their relations with groups supporting the "Islamic revolution" and Marxist terrorists (like the Mojahedin-e Khalq). The organizers of this seminar intend to prepare a list of participants and to give this list of people they have been able "to catch in their nets" to some Arab countries which support the front's activities and to Americans who are members of the CIA, who have stated that support for the front will depend on how many anti-regime individuals and groups attended--monarchists, republicans, leftists and Muslims. Meanwhile, in view of the fact that there are many former Tudeh Party members and associates and supporters of the Islamic Republic among the formulators of the front's policies, it is not improbable that participants in the seminar will also be identified to Khomeyni's clique as counterrevolutionary activists. In order to prove our point, we are publishing below a cliché of an election campaign advertisement, showing the picture and stating the record of a candidate for the Islamic clerical Majlis [picture of author 'Ali Asghar Hajj Seyyed Javadi published] taken from the JONBESH newspaper of Tehran dated 10 March 1979. This gentleman is now in Paris as a member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and he is secretly active in the Bani-Sadr and Rajavi National Resistance Council.

For the reasons stated, we consider it our duty to advise all patriots, Iranian combatants--especially supporters of the [1906] constitution and monarchists--not to participate in this seminar until the treacherous and incompetent officials of the Front for the Salvation of Iran are expelled. We issue this warning especially in view of the fact that there will be people among the participants like Dr Khodadad Farmanfarmayan and several other directors and personalities of the monarchy, who, we are confident, have accepted the invitation without knowing the record and intentions of the organizers of the seminar.

CSO: 4640/383

'ETTELA'AT' REPORTS ON DISCOVERY OF 'TEAM HOUSES'

GF061230 Tehran ETTALA'AT in Persian 22 Jun 82 p 4

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Department of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Committee--date not given]

[Excerpts] Eleven communal houses have been discovered in Tehran during the past few days, and 17 active members of the hypocrites were killed in armed clashes:

a. Discovery of communal houses:

The fearless guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee, assisted by the dear and selfless brothers of the Central Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office discovered and destroyed 11 team houses in various parts of Tehran, 17 of the prominent members of the higher cadres of this infernal hypocrites' organization were condemned to hell and 14 were arrested. Numerous weapons were seized from these communal houses such as G-3's, M-3's, colts, war grenades, RPC-7's and a large quantity of interorganizational documents and cyanide pills.

It may be noted that during the discovery and destruction operations of these communal houses, one of the sincere brother guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee, named Majid 'Abbasian, joined his maker and with his red blood sealed the document of the total doom and annihilation of these hirelings.

b. Roadside clashes:

During the four-phased streets clashes that took place between the antihuman hypocrites on the one hand and the selfless and dauntless guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee on the other, eight of the hypocrites were killed and some others were arrested. From these criminals posing as freedomfighters and who had a hand in the assassination of some defenseless Hezhollahi brothers and who have been involved in armed robberies of automobiles, the following items were recovered: Some stolen automobiles, G-3's, Uzis, colts and a large quantity of interorganizational documents and cyanide pills.

c. Arrests:

As a result of the vigilance, followup and pursuit by the brother guards and the cooperation of the Hezbollahi nation, 15 of the prominent members of the hypocrites were arrested and handed over to the authorities concerned.

In conclusion, we warn all the misguided people that they should not lose the opportunity and should return to the affectionate embrace of the imam so that they may not suffer the fate of the other lackeys.

CSO: 4640/383

'ETTELA'AT' REPORTS ON HYPOCRITES' SENTENCES

GFO70751 Tehran ETTALA'AT in Persian 27 Jun 82 p 2

[Text] By order of the Bushehr Islamic revolution court, seven people charged with the crimes of supporting the hypocrite Peykar Organization, addiction, and buying and selling narcotics have been sentenced to 5 to 10 years of prison.

The sentences are as follows:

1. Aqdas Rafi'i, daughter of Mohammad Reza, alias Susan, a citizen of Behbahan, was sentenced to 10 years for the crime of supporting the hypocrites, membership in the Behbahan organization as well as in Bushehr and Gachsaran, and having various responsibilities in team houses in different cities.
2. Ma'asumeh (Daymar), daughter of Hoseyn, after receiving mercy was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the crime of supporting the hypocrites organization, having responsibilities in financial matters of this organization and helping it in this matter, and for providing arms for this organization.
3. Pari Khaleqpanah, known as Shirin, daughter of Hasan, was sentenced to 5 years of prison for the crime of supporting the hypocrites, being affiliated with this organization, and giving financial aid and health office letters to this organization.
4. Soheyla Elham, daughter of Mandani, after receiving mercy was sentenced to 5 years in prison for the crime of supporting the Peykar Organization, distributing communiques and statements, and attracting manpower for this organization.
5. Husain 'Ali Mo'otaqed, son of Yusef, who was the head of accounting department in the Bushehr education office, was sentenced to 5 years for the crime of supporting the hypocrites and giving financial aid to them and being responsible for employment in this organization.
6. Qasem Halva'i, the son of Haj Baba, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the crime of buying and selling 500 grams of heroin.
7. Khalil Qolamzadeh, the son of Hoseyn, after receiving mercy was sentenced to 10 years for the crime of addiction and buying and selling 100 grams of heroin.

CSO: 4640/383

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA) - The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Dr. Firuzabadi said here in an interview Thursday that the Red Crescent Society has sent more than 5,500 medics to the warfronts over the last year, 70 of whom have been martyred.

Summarizing last year's activities of the Iranian Red Crescent, Dr. Firuzabadi added that 300 ambulances have also been sent to the warfronts, more than 5,400 missions have been fulfilled by the Society's vehicles, 70 missions by the Society's two helicopters and 109 missions by the Society's Falcon jet. More than 19,485 items of drugs, and 5,750 Kgs of dried milk which cost about 1,270 million rials, were distributed in different war-stricken and deprived regions by the Red Crescent through the Revolutionary Foundations and the hospitals, he further added.

The artificial limbs manufactured by the Society had provided the disabled with more than 17,487 artificial limbs over the last year.

Dr. Firuzabadi also said, while talking about the Blood Transfusion Center of the Red Crescent Society of Iran 59,290 bags of blood plasma had been supplied by the society in the same period.

Dr. Firuzabadi also said, while talking about the Blood Transfusion Center of the Red Crescent Society of Iran 59,290 bags of blood plasma had been supplied by the Society in the same period.

Referring to the field hospitals erected by the Society in the war regions and other medical equipment dispatched to the war fronts he said that in the "Fath-ul-Mubin" and "Tariq-ul-Qods" offensives only, the Red Crescent Society carried out over 335 operations and about 4,000 wounded soldiers were treated in the field hospitals. He also highlighted the 70 medical centers of the Society which were in contact with each other through an extensive communication system.

Referring to his recent visit to Turkey he said that the Islamic Republic had delivered its proposal on the exchange

of the PoW's families to the International Red Cross committee which was well received by Turkey and Kuwait. The Islamic Republic would be ready to put the program into operation even unilaterally if the Iraqi regime refused to agree to the proposal.

Talking about his recent trip to Syria he said that he went to fulfill the guidelines of Ayatollah Montazeri for providing the Lebanese war-stricken with immediate help. Over 170 million rials along with a hospital was dispatched to Lebanon, he added.

Dr. Firuzabadi also said that he received the reports on the activities of the Society in Lebanon when he was in Syria and that the plans for supplying further aid for the Palestinians was put into operation in coordination with the Syrian officials.

He concluded by declaring that the Red Crescent Society would participate in reconstruction of the southern city of Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province, which was liberated on May 24th.

IRAN, BULGARIA STUDY BARTER TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Prospects for development of Iran-Hungarian bilateral economic and trade relations were discussed with the Hungarian vice-president, deputy prime minister, and other high-ranking officials the Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati announced Sunday after returning from a trip to Hungary, Bulgaria and Mexico.

Salamati, who was heading a mission comprising officials from several ministries said bilateral cooperation in livestock breeding, agriculture, industry and commerce were also studied.

A memorandum of understanding was signed, added Salamati, between Iran and Hungary to study barter trade development including oil.

When asked about his visit to Bulgaria, Salamati said visiting countries friendly to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and studying mutual trade possibilities

was essential since agriculture was placed at the top of the priority list in Iran.

He said Iran was going to work with Bulgaria in agriculture, livestock breeding, and veterinary science and that necessary studies will be carried out regarding development of bilateral commercial, industrial and oil relations.

Salamati continued by saying that a letter of understanding was signed with Bulgaria after sessions with Bulgarian prime minister which will emphasize particularly on commerce, industry, agriculture and animal husbandry. He noted that the development of relations for exchanging industrial, agricultural and technological expertise were stressed in that memorandum.

Speaking on the Iranian mission's participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) annual session in Mexico, he asserted a stinging rebuke was given to world im-

perialism and reactionary countries with Iran's active participation in that session and the declaration of its opposition to imperialism's food policies on the international level.

He said the Iraqi representative's mutterings about his country's peace-loving nature drew laughs from the conferees after Iran announced that the Iraqi Baathist regime had demolished more than one million hectares of agricultural lands in its imposed war against Iran.

He then added that Iran's announcement of its opposition to imperialism's exploiting food as a weapon in the international arena helped include that point in the conference's final resolution.

He concluded that the Iranian visit to those countries was fruitful as those countries were informed of Iran's revolutionary stands and her practical development after the culmination of the Islamic revolution.

MAJLIS DEBATES MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian begins to broadcast live coverage of the Majlis proceedings at 0455 GMT on 6 July. The open session of the Majlis begins with the speaker reading the agenda, which includes recitation of the Holy Koran, preagenda speeches and plans for the Voice and Vision of Iran. The rest of the agenda was unheard due to severe interference from Arabic station.

Reception improves at 0505 GMT and a deputy is heard speaking on the holy war and the need to uphold ideals of the revolution, the significance of Ramadan and the Islamic spirit of the Iranian people. Regarding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops, he says: I entreat the noble people of Iran "not to underrate the cunning of the Ba'thist aggressor and not to lay down their arms until the complete downfall of Saddam is achieved." He then speaks on the need for attending to agriculture and animal husbandry, which are the grassroots of the present problems. He reads out a message which the deputies of Khorasan Province have signed and addresses the "brave combatants," who are asked to "take such steps which will make the ground tremble under your feet and continue your holy war until you see the walls of Jerusalem liberated."

Deputy Khalkhali takes the rostrum at 0629 GMT and speaks on the martyrdom of Yazd Friday Imam Sadduqi. The station becomes inaudible from time to time.

After calling the assassination of Yazd Friday Imam Sadduqi a "heinous crime," which comes at a time when the nation is stricken with sorrow and in the midst of observing Beheshti's martyrdom anniversary, Deputy Nuri speaks on the need for the delineation of a definite policy by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Discussion on this continues as various deputies take the floor and put forward various recommendations. At 0632 GMT discussion veers toward activities of the minigroups and their dastardly assassination of noble pillars of the Iranian revolution. The station becomes quite unmonitorable at this juncture.

At 0639 GMT an unnamed deputy takes the lectern and says that there are some countries which are openly hostile to Iran but there are others which do not make their stance clear; their attitude is not completely antagonistic

nor is it friendly. Deputy Fu'ad-Karimi speaks on the policy of the Voice and Vision of Iran at 0644 GMT and says it is not for the Majlis to interfere in the administration of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran which should formulate its policy in consonance with the guidelines laid down by the foreign minister and Khomeyni, because the world "is divided into eastern and western blocs with Iran hanging in between." At this point he is curtly asked by speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to end his speech as the time allotted to him is over. Deputy Hasanzadeh says that the Voice and Vision of Iran broadcasts in all languages, particularly Arabic, which is to its credit. Votes are taken on various proposals but most of them are not approved. Reception deteriorates at 0653 GMT as discussion on various aspects of the same subject continues and it becomes difficult to comprehend what is being said.

At 0700 GMT the speaker mentions various bills and clauses by number only, without elaborating on them further, and voting continues on them until 0750 GMT. Reception remains poor, as it is marred by local atmospheric conditions, and the station becomes completely unheard at 0805 GMT due to Arabic programming from another channel.

CSO: 4640/383

BRIEFS

'MUSLIMS SHOULD MARCH TOWARD AL-AQSA'--Qom, (IRNA)--Prime Minister Mir Hussein Musavi met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom Tuesday afternoon. In the meeting Ayatollah Montazeri said that as Imam Khomeini recently emphasized the way to reach and liberate Qods was through Iraqi land. The Ayatollah added surely the world's Muslims, especially the Iraqi Muslim people, would grant the right to Iranian nation and government to liberate Qods to use the closest and the most natural route and the Iraqi nation surely would join the Iranians in this movement. The Ayatollah, thanking the Prime Minister for sending delegations world-wide to expose Zionist crimes in Lebanon said that although the prior issue of the Iranian nation and government was to repel the Iraqi aggression, he added that the issue of Qods concerned all the world's Muslims. It would be thus fitting to reveal the Zionist crimes in the world for the Muslims and Muslim Ulema even while fighting the Iraqi aggression. The Ayatollah said that Muslims from all Islamic countries should form a 20 million strong army to march toward Al-Aqsa mosque beginning this Ramadhan to be readied by Qods day (the last Friday of Ramadhan). [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 2]

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS CUBAN ENVOY--Tehran (IRNA)--Foreign Minister Dr Velayati, told outgoing Cuban Ambassador Alberto Velazco San Jose that Iraq's evacuation of Iranian lands met only one of the terms set forth by the Islamic Republic for peace and that Iran's other conditions had remained unchanged. Velazco San Jose who has been given charge of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, said in another farewell meeting with the deputy Foreign Ministry, Ahmad Azizi, that he hoped that his stay here had expanded the relations between Iran and Cuba. The Deputy Foreign Minister said he was confident that during his service in Iran the Cuban official had understood that the unity of the masses with Islam and Khomeini as "the three sides of a triangle, and three pillars upholding the Islamic Revolution." He expressed confidence that with a realistic approach to Iran's Islamic Revolution and its stands about the various issues, Cuba as well as any other country could establish the foundations of "healthy and constructive relations with the Islamic Republic on the basis of respect of the mutual interests of the two nations." [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 2]

TEAM TOURS CZECHOSLOVAKIA--Tehran (IRNA)--The Iranian mission from the Petrochemical National Industrial Company headed by Mostafa Taheri Najaf-Abadi toured Czechoslovakia a few days ago and inspected petrochemical facilities and some of the machine manufacturing plants of that country. The Iranian mission also met and conferred with the Czech ministers of foreign trade, deputy of the foreign affairs ministry and heavy industries along with some other officials of the petrochemical industries. The establishment of new petrochemical complexes and specifically methanol and chemical fertilizer complexes in Iran were discussed in these meetings. The Iranian mission also visited the Democratic Republic of Germany on June 24th. [Text] [27 Jun 82 p 2]

ACTION IN MAHABAD, KORDESTAN--Urumiyeh, KEYHAN correspondent--Nineteen counterrevolutionaries were killed in a violent armed clash between brother Revolution Guards of Mahabad and counterrevolutionaries. The public relations operations headquarters in the northwest of the country confirmed this report on telephone and told the KEYHAN reporter: On 11 June counter-revolutionaries launched an attack on a section of Mahabad which was foiled by the brother guards and 19 of the mischiefmongers were killed. During the attack the counterrevolutionaries attacked defenseless citizens of this city in a cowardly attempt at retaliation which resulted in the killing of 3 and wounding of 10 civilians. According to the operations headquarters in the northwest of the country, a clash took place between the Muslim Kurdish tribes and illegal armed insurgents in the (Jandad) district of (Solmas) on 10 June. The brother tribesmen were surrounded by the counter-revolutionaries who were members of the defunct Democratic Front. The army, guards and gendarmerie acted without any delay, routed the insurgents and set the brother bribesmen free. In this skirmish none of our forces was harmed. Details of enemy casualties will be announced later. [Excerpts] [GF021450 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jun 82 p 13]

HYPOCRITES' SHIRAZ BANK ROBBERY--Shiraz: The public relations department of the Guards Corps of District 9 announced that the cash burgled by the hypocrites in Shiraz was 7 million rials. This robbery took place when the armed hypocrites attacked the vehicle which was conveying the currency to the National Bank of Shiraz on 15 June, and two of the faithful employees of the bank and a guard were martyred. [Text] [GF061224 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Jun 82 p 2]

MINIGROUPS' SURRENDER--Kordestan--With the revelation of the ugly and deceptive face of the American Democrat (Komeleh) minigroups and the exposure of the true nature, 11 deceived persons of (Komeleh) in (Kachvi) zone in Sanandaj surrendered their arms and gave themselves up to the Revolutionary Guards in the area 3 days ago. Also on 24 May, seven persons who were the members of the defunct Democratic Party gave themselves up and turned their arms over to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards of Sanandaj. These people, who expressed their violent and intense hatred toward these minigroups, asked for a certificate of amnesty. According to this report, last week a few people gave themselves up to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards of Baneh. They belonged to the higher cadres of this organization. [Text] [GF051003 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Jun 82 p 4]

QASHQA'I TRIBE LEADER ARRESTED--The selfless members of the Guard Corps--the self-sacrificing defenders of the Islamic revolution--in coordination with the brother members of the Central Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office and the selfless help of the zealous and Muslim tribes of Fars--were able to arrest a number of ruffians and lackey and criminal feudalists who are the friends of the hypocrites. This operation was carried out in continuation of efforts to cut off the roots of decadence and the germs of destruction. In the operations, two members of the main cadre of the hypocrites, who were the contacts of this terrorist minigroup with the ruffians and the feudals of the area, were annihilated and another one was arrested. In continuation of the operations, the hideout of Khosrow Qashqa'i and several other leech-like and foreign mercenary feudalists who have been sucking the blood of the oppressed tribes for years--the signs of their criminal and cruel acts can be seen in the faces of the miserable tribesman and villagers--was discovered and the said elements together with nine other feudalists of the Fars area were captured by the defenders of the Islamic revolution. [Signed] the Public Relations Department of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps. [Text] [GF061226 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jun 82 p 1]

THIEF LOSES ARM IN BAKHTARAN--Bakhtaran, IRNA--Mr Sadiqi, prosecutor of the Ilam and Bakhtaran Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office, told an IRNA reporter that a hand of Ahmad Khosravi, alias Gholamshah, was publicly severed up to the canonical limit following a verdict of the Ilam Islamic revolution court, approval of the Qom supreme court and on the order of the Revolution Prosecutor's Office of Bakhtaran and Ilam. His crime was repeated theft. [Text] [GF051206 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Jun 82 p 4]

CLANDESTINE HAILS SADDUQI ASSASSINATION--According to dispatches, the revolution execution of Mullah Sadduqi was carried out in the same manner as earlier revolutionary executions. One of the fighters killed himself for the sake of liberation of Iran from the claws of a handful of reactionary and power-hungry mullahs by strapping a grenade to himself and standing close to him. We hail the pure soul of this selfless Yazdi youth. Hail the pure souls of all those martyred for freedom of Iran. The Free Voice of Iran, while stressing the invitation of the regime's opposition concerning the boycott of the (?contrived) Friday shows, warns the compatriots that there is a strong possibility of intensification of attacks against the mullahs in such shows in future weeks. The Muslim and faithful people of our homeland are better off not participating in the regime's laughable shows on Fridays in order to maintain their health and not endanger their lives for the sake of the (?satanic) aims of a number of criminal and country-less mullahs. We again tell you that the government-contrived Friday shows are boycotted by the Muslim nation of Iran. This is the last warning. All those who stand to pray behind the mercenary mullahs of Khomeyni will from now on be considered participants in the criminal acts of the mullahs. Their account is separate from that of the Muslim people of Iran who have boycotted the propaganda Friday prayers. [Text] [GF031731 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 3 Jul 82]

MULLAHS AFRAID TO SLEEP AT HOME--According to confirmed reports we have been receiving from Tehran, for some time now the mullahs and other members of the Majlis--like the rest of the officials of the Islamic Republic--are not spending nights in their own homes. Following the annihilation of hundreds of big and small agents of Khomeyni's regime, the so-called representatives of the Majlis, who usually use bulletproof cars and several armed guards, are spending nights in places other than their own homes to escape the revenge of the opposition. Reports reaching us indicate that the terror of the heads of the regime has reached such a level that the mullahs and the pseudoclergy wearing the clothes of clergymen use civilian clothes on the streets as much as possible. This action by the mullahs indicates their fear of assassination and also shows their fear of the hatred of the people. [Text] [GF051514 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 5 Jul 82]

CHARGES FOR EXIT VISAS--According to a report from Tehran, the regime of mullahs which is suffering from severe financial crisis may quite possibly by end of Ramadan or at least by [date indistinct] allow travel abroad again. The conditions for exit will be payment of 20,000 tumans as war refugee tax, 50,000 tumans as a guarantee of return and 3,000 tumans for the actual exit visa. Should this project go into effect, all those wishing to leave the country will have to pay. [Text] [GF051511 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 5 Jul 82]

CSO: 4640/383

BRIEFS

SADDAM HUSAYN'S TIME INTERVIEW--Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has stated that we are with any Arab, wherever he may be, against any foreigner, wherever he may be, when that foreigner attacks the Arab. We do not differentiate between Arabs on the basis of their attitudes or their short-term policies. In an interview with the U.S.'s TIME magazine this morning, President Saddam Husayn explained that some of the reasons which made Iraq become the target of enemies is that it is developing. He added that the enemies' basic objectives are to halt the process of construction in Iraq, stressing that, despite their attempts, Iraq has achieved its basic target of construction with the same accuracy and enthusiasm as it has toward the military operations. In reply to the questions of the magazine, President Saddam Husayn reviewed the process of construction in Iraq, the facts of the just battle against the Iranian regime and the Arab situation in general and the treacherous Zionist aggression against Lebanon in particular. President Saddam Husayn referred to Iraq's stands within the framework of international activity, the role of the Nonaligned Movement in various international activities and Iraq's preparations to convene the seventh conference of the Nonaligned Movement's heads of states or governments in Baghdad in September. [Text] [JN061632 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/355

WEST BANK GOVERNOR MILSON: PLO LOSING SUPPORT IN AREA

Milson's Statements Questioned

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 21 Jun 82 p 10

[Article by Erik Loe]

[Text] In the following interview with the civilian governor, who was appointed 6 months ago, official Israel presents its policy on the occupied West Bank which has around three-quarters of a million Palestinian inhabitants. Menachem Milson reveals that this policy is based on an evaluation of the situation for which it is difficult, if not impossible, to find support among independent observers. The theory seems to be that the PLO has support only because the organization has managed to "intimidate," or terrorize, the occupied Palestinians. The power of the PLO is being broken and then the "moderate" Palestinians who are prepared to cooperate with and subordinate themselves to the occupation authorities will step forward and join in the planned arrangement for a local autonomy that is subordinate to the power of Israel.

There is reason to believe that Israeli authorities in the occupied areas have put on blinders and are guilty of wishful thinking with regard to the thoughts and behavior of the occupied population.

Milson mentions as an example of how they have "undermined" the power of the PLO the deposed mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka and says that his influence now is small compared to what it was before. At about the same time, the American magazine, TIME, published the results of an opinion poll it had asked for concerning the attitudes of the approximately 1.2 million Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza area. It appears that of the local leaders on the West Bank, the most highly regarded is unquestionably none other than Bassam Shaka. He was named by 68 percent of those polled and in second place was the also deposed mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf who also supports the PLO.

The same survey--Israeli authorities abandoned their efforts to block its publication after a period of time--showed a miserable support level of only 2 percent for Mustafa Dudin, who heads the pro-Israeli village

leagues. In the interview, Milson called them proof that dislike of the PLO is strong when the PLO is deprived of power.

TIME ordered the opinion poll from the reputable PORI [expansion unknown] institute in Tel Aviv. It was conducted with Israeli-Arab sociologists from Hebrew University as advisers. TIME itself writes that the results contradict Defense Minister Sharon's opinion that "If they could be isolated from PLO influence, West Bank Palestinians would approve a form of 'autonomy' under the local moderate Arab leadership." As might be expected the replies are marked by strong pessimism. While 98 percent want a Palestinian state, only 25 percent believe there will be peace between Israel and the Palestinians and 93 percent do not believe it would help them if the Labor Party returned to power in Israel.

A few of the broken figures provide some hope. The survey was conducted in the first half of April when there was bloody strife on the West Bank--a strife Milson depicts in a way he would have a hard time finding support for in Israeli newspapers. Even so, 16 percent of the respondents said they had Israelis among their personal friends.

Milson Views Area Politics

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 21 Jun 82 p 10

[Interview with Governor Menachem Milson by Richard Oestermann]

[Text] Jerusalem--Professor Menachem Milson, chief administrator of the new Israeli civilian government over the occupied West Bank area, is one of Israel's greatest authorities on the Arabic language and Arabic literature. It is still too early to say anything about his ability as an administrator. On leave from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he has only held his top post since December.

Professor Milson is 49 years old. He was born in Haifa and received his doctorate when he was 31. He taught Arabic at Harvard University in the United States and returned later to a research post there. Until he was appointed chief of the civilian administration on the West Bank, he was probably best known by the public as an aide to Egypt's deceased President Anwar Sadat during his historic visit to Jerusalem in 1977.

ARBEIDERBLADET's correspondent interviewed Milson at his headquarters in the military camp of Bet El, about 20 km north of Jerusalem on the road to Nablus. The interview was taped--by Milson's press officer. Normally, it is the journalist who uses a tape recorder. But this conversation was taped by the man interviewed so that he could determine later whether or not he was quoted correctly.

PLO Weakened

"After the civilian administration was set up 6 months ago, we managed to undermine the PLO on the West Bank," said Professor Milson. "There is no doubt about that. There are many examples. One of them is the former mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka, who was the PLO's ringleader in the area, with the special political assignment of combatting the Camp David agreements and the peace process."

Professor Milson maintains that it is clear both to the PLO and to the Israelis that to be able to implement the second part of the Camp David accords (the part concerning the Palestine question), there must be approval on the part of the Palestinian Arabs, because self-rule (autonomy) involves volition. The people must show a determination to take part in an autonomous arrangement and to accept it. To frustrate this, the PLO wants to make sure that no one steps forward to participate in the talks on autonomy.

According to Milson, Shaka's job was to frighten and deter the people from doing this. After he was removed from his post by Israeli authorities, he has less influence, however, and Milson cites as proof of this that Shaka is unable to organize widespread protests and general strikes against his dismissal. This was a serious blow to the anti-Camp David people and the anti-peace forces in the region. Milson added that there are other indications and proofs that the PLO has become weaker, but PLO people are still active, he said.

Pressure

Asked how it affects the political situation in a town to have a PLO supporter as mayor, Milson replied that such mayors use their authority and economic means to force their viewpoints through. He gave as examples that a shop owner might not get his business permit renewed if he did not close his shop during a strike ordered by the mayor and an entrepreneur could not get a job unless he sent his workers out to demonstrate when this "PLO agent" ordered him to do so.

When Shaka was mayor, Professor Milson said, he had no less than 400 people on his payroll who were hired exclusively to pressure the people into demonstrating against the Israelis, to close their shops and so forth. After his departure, Shaka called on the people to stop paying their electric bills to the municipality. But they did not heed him. They paid their bills.

"We provided electricity to everyone who paid their bills, regardless of their political views," said Milson, "while Shaka would not deliver electricity to the business people who would not strike when he ordered them to do so."

This Is the Enemy

In addition to Shaka, two other mayors on the West Bank have been removed from their posts by Israel, mainly because they refused to cooperate with Israeli authorities. Their posts have been filled temporarily by Israelis, but Milson and his staff are now working to find local representatives who can assume the post of mayor in the towns of Nablus, Ramallah and El Bireh.

Asked how politicians who can assume power on the West Bank can emerge, Professor Milson said that "these candidates exist, but it takes time to get them to step forward."

Why don't the Arabs want autonomy?

"Some of them like autonomy, others do not. The Egyptians have apparently accepted the idea. The mayor of Gaza, Rashin el-Shawa, who is pro-PLO, argued in a letter to Arafat in favor of participating in the talks on autonomy. He felt it was in the interests of the Palestinians to support the peace process. Israel's position is not an obstacle for him. What is blocking him is the PLO's veto of his ideas and their advice to him to take no action.

"It is this obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinians that I will do my best to remove with the help of my administration and support from the preponderant Israeli opinion, which I believe we have," said Milson.

Professor Milson asserted that many people in various parts of the world are not aware that the PLO not only opposes one peace plan or another but that the PLO is opposed to any peace arrangement in the Middle East. The leader of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, declared recently that he has never worked for a peaceful solution and that he is opposed to a political arrangement with Israel in any form.

"So this is the enemy and it is against this enemy we are fighting," said Milson, who added:

"We are not fighting against the Arabs of Palestine. That is the difference. To achieve peace with the Palestinian Arabs, we must remove the PLO from positions of control on the West Bank."

Relative Calm

It has been said that there have been more sacrifices and greater tension on the West Bank in the last 4 months than in all the 15 years that have gone by since Israel occupied the region.

"That is not correct. In the period from November 1975 to March 1976, the period when the PLO was exhorting people to commit violence in the streets to pave the way for taking over municipal governments in the election of

April 1976, 12 people were killed during disturbances in the region. The latest wave of 'PLO-inspired unrest' is now over and it has been relatively calm here during the last month. It has been painful and difficult for us and for the local population that people have been wounded and killed."

In response to the question of what the task of the civilian administration is in contrast to the military rule previously in effect, Milson said:

"Let me first make it clear once more that Israel has not changed the legal status in this area. It is a question of an internal reorganization of the administration. Our geographic area is the West Bank alone--not the Gaza strip, in other words, or the Golan Heights or East Jerusalem. We are concerned with civil matters, for example agriculture, education, health care, municipal matters, public works and so forth, while the military and other security measures lie outside our area of competence. The PLO is trying to spread confusion about these differences and make the civil administration responsible for everything that happens."

How many employees are there within the civil administration?

"Around 12,000 people who are paid by the civil administration. Most of them, around 11,500, are local Arabs who are teachers, doctors, nurses, agricultural experts, engineers, policemen, judges, etc. There are also a few hundred Israelis, not all of whom are Jews."

Village Leagues

Recently the Israelis have emphasized the so-called village leagues as a counterbalance to the PLO. The leagues are regional organizations of peasants who want to raise their standard of living and many of them are anti-PLO and support Israel in its effort to find negotiating partners for an autonomous arrangement among Palestinian Arabs. The leagues have been in existence for a number of years but have had a low profile during most of Israel's 15-year occupation. Some members of the leagues have been armed by the Israelis for purposes of self-defense. The leader of the village leagues is Mustafa Dudin, who was formerly a minister in the government of Jordan.

The village leagues serve the population sector that has been neglected and oppressed for generations, says Professor Milson. Many of them are peasants, while others live in villages and work in the big towns. Those who live in villages and farming areas make up around 70 percent of the population of the West Bank.

According to Milson, these peasants asked the Israeli authorities for permission to organize for the purpose of developing their villages. They have come an impressive distance, he says. The village people wanted an organization that was independent and did not take orders from the PLO. They do not say that they accept the proposals presented by Israel--on the

contrary. They say they have their own ideas for a settlement and they reject terrorism and the "protection" of the PLO.

Milson says that the village leagues are not a political party but an organization supporting regional development. He says that "dozens" of villages in the Hebron area are organized in this manner. In the Tulkarm area, about 12 villages are organized in this way, with the same number in the Jenin area, 15 villages in the Bethlehem area and around 10 villages in Ramallah.

6578

CSO: 3108/124

U.S. ROLE IN LEBANON CRITICIZED

JN020958 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Jul 82 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The U.S. Role in Lebanon"]

[Text] Day after day the dimensions, nature and aims of the U.S. role in Lebanon are further revealed. It is also further asserted that this role does not seek to save Beirut, to restore respect to the Lebanese authority or to organize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. It seeks first and foremost to impose U.S. hegemony on and domesticate the region through Lebanon with the help of the aggressive Israeli arm which is heavily equipped with U.S. weapons.

There is no better proof of this than the fact that the talks of the U.S. envoy in Lebanon are no longer confined to the situation of the Palestinian resistance there, but have gone on to define the Lebanese factions which are allowed to keep their weapons and the others which are to be disarmed. This means that the United States has chosen for itself the role of a guardian without being authorized by anyone to play that role.

Thus, it becomes clear that the PLO is not only target of the U.S. role, whose military and repressive side is undertaken by Israel. The demonstration of the Arab will is another basic target of that hegemonic role.

In light of this, there is no room for doubt that the siege imposed on Beirut is also imposed on the Arab will and that the conditions which the United States is seeking to dictate to the Palestinian resistance are really conditions aimed at paralyzing the Arab will and defeating the Arab individual wherever he might exist.

No one has yet forgotten that defending the region against foreign hegemony has been one of the most important resolutions approved by the Arabs in the past summit conference. It is no secret that the U.S. role in Lebanon is an attempt to impose this hegemony.

The Arabs are mistaken if they think that appeasing the United States at the expense of the Palestinian resistance will satisfy the U.S. appetite for hegemony because it will only increase U.S. greed which looks forward to hegemony over the region. The Arabs have no other choice but to defend their will, freedom and steadfastness in the face of the suspect U.S. role if they are serious in their rejection of the U.S. umbrella.

'JORDAN TIMES' PRAISES FAIRNESS OF SOME AMERICANS

JN240926 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Speaking Out. At Last"]

[Text] Former United States President Jimmy Carter was correct in one thing he always said: The United States should rightly have a government that is as good and decent and honorable as its people. What we are witnessing today in America, in the reaction to the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon, is clear evidence of the gap between the goodness and fairness and sense of moral rightness of the American people, and the brute, callous indifference of the American Government.

The American people, many of their federal congressional representatives and many of their press commentators have already expressed sincere, obvious indignation about the nature and extent of Israel's move into Lebanon. The reaction "from the American Government has been, in contrast, mild, vague and worryingly in tandem with the statements of Israeli leaders about the goals of the Israeli invasion.

It is clear from the reports of the meetings between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and American Senate and House of Representatives members that the leadership of the American Congress has wasted no words in letting Mr Begin know of its anger with Israel's actions in Lebanon. This does not surprise us, because we have always been sure that the people of the United States would make their outrage known when Israeli actions badly contravened American principles of justice and fairness. We are in such a situation today, and we are pleased to see some segments of American society speaking out forcefully and honestly against Israel's intemperate, inhuman behavior. Seeing as how American arms and money allows Israel to do its dirty deeds, it is appropriate that some Americans speak out on the matter honestly.

CSO: 4400/348

'JORDAN TIMES' VIEWS 'IMPECCABLE' U.S. LOGIC

JNO 30702 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jul 82 p 4

[Editorial: 'What Do We Do?']

[Text] Answering reporters' questions on the Middle East early on Thursday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan rejected accusations that the United States gave Israel advance approval to invade Lebanon to crush the Paletine Liberation Organization (PLO). The president told the press conference that he had "given no green light whatsoever" and the U.S. was "caught as much by surprise as anyone" by the Israeli military thrust into Lebanon.

Still, Mr Reagan made it abundantly clear that he sympathised with Israel's goals, and expressed understanding for Israel's war against the PLO by referring to rocket and artillery shelling of Israeli settlements from across the border with Lebanon before June 6. He, of course, also rejected a reporter's suggestion that the Soviet "slaughter" of Afghans was no different from what the Israelis had done to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Because the president's arguments are so impeccable, we Arabs should not question them. How on earth do we know that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) can fail to detect large-scale movements of the Israeli Army and the intentions of its commanders or inform the president about them, in time? How do we know that the American foreign service can fail in judging the Israeli mood or withholding information from the secretary of state? How are Arabs supposed to realise that two strategic allies do not necessarily talk to each other about a war one of them is about to launch with the other's arms and money?

No, Arabs cannot argue against the U.S. impeccable logic. Yet, they might want to ask themselves one more question: If a certain logic leads to your own destruction, and you cannot hope to win your case by arguing against it, what do you do?

One day, we Arabs must come up with an answer. It is long overdue.

CSO: 4400/348

JORDAN

JORDANIAN PARTIES CONDEMN 'AGENT' KING HUSAYN

JN302046 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1850 GMT 30 Jun 82

[Text] The democratic pan-Arab progressive forces grouping in Jordan issued a statement today condemning the imperialist-American-Zionist invasion of Lebanon which aims at stamping out the Palestinian resistance, liquidating the Palestinian cause, destroying the Lebanese nationalist movement and striking at Syria's steadfastness as a prologue to the Arabization of the Camp David plot and the spreading of the American-Zionist political, economic and military hegemony over the Arab homeland.

The statement denounced the strategic alliance existing between the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism as well as the treason, connivance and silence of some Arab regimes and reactionary forces that are allowing the building of U.S. military bases and the stationing of rapid deployment forces in the Arab land.

The statement condemned fascist Saddam Husayn's stand in Iraq, this ruler who is launching an unjust war against the friendly Iranian revolution thus preventing Iraq and Iran from contributing their potentials and capabilities to the Arab battle of fate.

The statement called for the unity of all parties of the Arab liberation movement and their coalition with the powers of steadfastness represented in Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement in order to attain victory and defeat the invaders.

The statement also urged the steadfastness and confrontation front to shoulder its historic responsibilities by implementing its resolutions and recommendations in all fields. The statement underlined the importance of the strategic alliance between Syria and the Arab liberation movement on the one side and the USSR, socialist bloc states and the international revolutionary movement on the other.

The statement condemned the King Husayn regime's maneuvers which are hostile to our Palestinian Arab people's struggle and to the Arab nation's cause. The statement requested the agent king's regime to allow democratic [word indistinct] to the masses and to their democratic, nationalist and progressive forces in

Jordan so they can shoulder their national duties; to disconnect Jordan's political, economic, military and financial subserviance to U.S. imperialism, our people's number one enemy; to stop antagonizing Syria and casting doubts about its national stand; to join the steadfastness and confrontation front's confrontation of the Camp David plot; to allow the Palestinian resistance to carry out its activities on Jordanian territory; and to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with the USSR, the socialist bloc states and the international revolutionary movement.

The statement urged the Arab nation's masses to join the joint forces ranks and to donate blood and money in order to back the triangle of Arab steadfastness comprising Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement, to strike at the U.S. multifaceted interests in our homeland, to defeat the barbaric Zionist invasion and foil the design hostile to the Arab nation.

The democratic pan-Arab progressive grouping in Jordan comprises the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian People's Revolutionary Party [Hizb al-Sha'b al-Thawri al-'Urduni], the Jordanian Popular Movement [al-Harakh al-Sha'biyyah al-'Urduniyah], and the March Popular Committees [Lijan 'Adhar al-Sha'biyyah].

CSO: 4400/348

BRIEFS

U.S. BOYCOTT URGED--Amman--The Jordanian Workers Union has called for boycotting the United States, which supports, finances and blesses all Israeli aggressions on the Arabs, has paralyzed public opinion and international conscience and hampered all UN Security Council resolutions by using the veto to protect Israel. In a statement issued by the union yesterday following a meeting of professional union heads, the union appealed to Jordanian workers to quickly extend financial donations through their unions to lessen the sufferings of the victims of the Zionist expansionist onslaught. The statement calls for clearing the Arab atmosphere of superficial and false disputes and unifying Arab ranks to confront the imminent danger threatening the Arabs. The statement says it is time the Arab nation confronted its enemies and employed all Arab potentials and capabilities in the battle of honor, dignity and fate. The statement says that national and pan-Arab duty demands that we act quickly on all official and public levels to confront the savage Zionist aggression. The statement also says that Arabs must reconsider the status of Arab oil and the investments which pour into the United States to serve its interests. The statement hails the heroes who are defending Arab dignity against the Zionist aggression which stands at Beirut's entrances and spreads destruction and annihilation to satisfy its Nazi and fascist whims and achieve the illusion of liquidating the Palestinian and Lebanese people, who have proved to the world that the will of the people is stronger than iron and fire and greater than destruction and annihilation. [Text] [JN291128 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jun 82 pp 1, 21]

CSO: 4400/348

SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON URGED

GF251115 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Let's Not Push Syria Into War"]

[Text] The Israeli strategy is to destroy the military prowess of Syria. This will not come about unless Syria is dragged into the battles in Lebanon. Hence, the Lebanese solution lies partly in the withdrawal of the Syrian troops from that country.

The Lebanese situation also requires the dispersal of the Palestinian forces, which need not be limited to a particular place or area. The ideal thing would be for the Palestinian resistance to be launched from the occupied lands. That will be possible only when the Palestinian might is united. It is no use Yasir 'Arafat delivering a speech in the UN carrying an olive branch as long as Israel can brainwash the world.

The real problem now in Lebanon is that we provide Israel with the excuse it is looking for, with the support of the American military, which knows Arabs are right but cannot influence public opinion back home the way Israelis do. This Israeli lobby in America directs the administration in a manner that is detrimental to American interests.

Israel wants to destroy Syrian military power, as it did in the case of Iraqis by siding with the Iranians. Israel wages a war with the Arabs roughly every ten years: in 1948, then 1956, then 1967, followed by 1973 and now we are halfway to 1983. That is about the time limit Israel has.

This conclusion of a war against Arabs at regular intervals is ratified by the Israelis themselves. We give them the excuse every time and we refuse to learn from past mistakes. We pushed Egypt into a war with Israel which it could ill afford to. We are repeating it now by pushing Syria into a suicidal clash with Israel. Let's not be ashamed to admit that Syria simply cannot win this war, for it is not fighting Israel alone but will be up against a strong and loyal ally of that country, America.

The Lebanese demand not to renew the mandate of the Arab Syrian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon is quite justified, if this leads to an Israeli withdrawal. That would restore Lebanon as a non-aligned and stable country, something that is an Arab demand, including that of Syria.

POSSIBILITY OF PALESTINIAN STATE DISCUSSED

GF271937 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 26 Jun 82 p 1

[Editorial: 'Will 'Arafat's Prophecy Come True and the Palestinian State Be Established Before the End of the Year?"]

[Text] The United States invented the game of domino and applied it in many places all over the world. It is a theory which states that crises and regimes can fall one after the other once one piece in the series falls on its neighbor.

The Israeli domino in Lebanon, which was intended to knock the PLO domino against its brothers of the Arab regimes resulted in an odd outcome which is the exception to the rule: The Israeli invasion domino, which fell in Lebanon, outreached all the neighboring Palestinian and Arab dominoes pieces and knocked down the far piece in the last series: General Haig. What is startling is that it was Haig himself who arranged the pieces of the Lebanese domino game with Israel and made it a game of fire and explosions, and as a result, it burned his hands and brow.

We previously said that Haig began the game of U.S. presidential elections at a very early time by betting on the Israeli card. The fact that it was Reagan who personally announced Haig's resignation for the first time makes it very near to dismissal. Thus, it is clear that no one can stay far from Lebanon's earthquake.

It seems that the respite granted to Israel has been ended by the United States, Europe, Lebanon and the Arabs. It was assumed that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon would achieve its goals within 3 weeks, ending yesterday. A series of exciting developments surfaced at one time. In the United States, the resignation of secretary of state General Haig was announced. In Europe, France announced its initiative to disengage forces in Beirut and the EEC countries threatened to impose economic sanctions on Israel if it does not withdraw its invading forces. In Lebanon, Prime Minister al-Wazzan resigned,

again revealing that the war in Lebanon is an international game. On the Arab level, the Arab League finally moved in response to the third appeal made by Kuwait to hold an Arab foreign ministers conference to prepare for an Arab summit. Kuwait was the first Arab country to make call after call to save Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance from the plight. The time of the conference was put forward from next Tuesday to today, Saturday.

So far, Israel has achieved a great portion of its military goals in Lebanon: It has broken many ribs of the PLO's spinal column and has put southern Lebanon under complete control and is now besieging the Palestinian resistance leaders in Beirut, thus causing them to face a battle for their lives.

As for the political goals, none of them has been achieved. Lebanon has not signed a peace treaty with Israel nor have the Palestinian resistance leaders put down arms and surrendered. The material and personnel losses which Israel has sustained have exceeded all expectations. Thus, Israel is now in danger of losing all its military accomplishments because of its inability to achieve its primary goal. Haig's resignation must lead--at present or in the very near future--to the fall of Begin and Sharon together. That is why Israel announced all of a sudden that it is ready to immediately enforce an overall cease-fire in Lebanon.

The situation is now convenient for Reagan to take a radical step to change the entire situation in the Middle East conflict through U.S. recognition of the PLO as full partner in the Middle East peace negotiations to establish the Palestinian state.

Will Yasir 'Arafat's prophecy be achieved? He said early this year that the Palestinian state will be established before the end of 1982.

CSO: 4400/348

COLUMNIST VIEWS DISARRAY ON LEBANON

GF281121 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28 Jun 82 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "To Be Frank..."]

[Text] Frankly speaking, Lebanon is not the right place to fight for the liberation of Palestine, as long as the Arabs are disunited. The Lebanese are prepared to shake hands with the devil himself if that can bring about the withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces from their lands. They don't say it in as many words, but the message is clear.

Let us be more frank. The very persons who raise the slogan everyday of liberating Palestine are the ones who make it impossible for the Palestinian forces to have a footing in their countries. The late Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, the foremost champion of liberating occupied Palestine, was quite firm when it came to admitting any Palestinian force to his country. Jordan had the blessings of other Arabs countries when it resisted any growth of Palestinian armed forces within its territories.

These are the truths. No matter what happens at the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, the Lebanese want their country free of Syrian and Palestinian forces. This they believe will make them truly non-aligned and that it will lead to the withdrawal of Israeli forces as well.

Syria knows it should withdraw from Lebanon. But if it does so without a collective Arab decision, it will be criticized for cowardice, retreat, etc., despite losing substantial part of its army in the war.

The real malady is Arab disunity. There are some leaders who really are not qualified to lead. There are so many different opinions. There are those who think that the Soviet President Brezhnev will go liberate Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. There might be even some who think Beijing will help throw Israel into the sea.

One need not be surprised if some Arabs believe that Mrs Thatcher, with all her compassion, will restore peace through liberating Palestine by refuting the infamous Balfour declaration!

For every Arab camp, there is a different ideology and a separate direction. Some are with the Eastern Bloc, some with the West. The Arab nation is torn asunder by certain unqualified regimes.

Under such circumstances, what do we tell the Lebanese? Fight the enemy? But who will stand by them and fight? Will it be Iraq which has its hands full fighting Iran, which seems to think in turn that liberation of Jerusalem can be only through Karbala or even Morocco? Or should it be Egypt, in whose way there are sy many hurdles erected in returning to the Arab fold, despite the partiotism of its leader, Husni Mubarak? Or will it be the Gulf states which are always told of the export of Iranian revolution?

We want to speak the truth, and bluntly so. Do we want to fight Israel? If the answer is yes, how, where and when? The answer is when we are united and have an Arab army and on the occupied lands themselves.

Unfortunately, the muscles of our lands armies now are in their bellies and we have forces only to fight each other...not to fight unitedly against the common enemy....

Oh! That's enough...enough...well what more can I say?

CSO: 4400/348

'ARAB TIMES' COMMENTS ON ARAB 'USE' OF PALESTINIANS

GF231130 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Jun 82 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad Jarallah: "Dangerous Card"]

[Text] Perhaps the most dangerous card played by some Arab leaders is the Palestinian card.

Since the disaster of Israel's inception in 1948 this card has been used by those who think that Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf are penetrated and affected by the Palestinians.

So Arab leaders searching for popular acclaim use this card. They think their security forces would be able to brainwash their people and the Palestinian card would brainwash other Arab peoples, raising the slogan of unity and the creation of a united Arab world.

Many Arab leaders played with the Palestinian card. But this game is absolutely dangerous since it is a game between two and a game in which one party knows what the other wants from him. At a time when these leaderships thought of using this card for their own interests, the Palestine card itself made those leaderships work for the Palestinian cause.

When danger comes, these leaders realise how dangerous this game is and the separation takes place.

Here the Palestinian card confirms a reality, namely that the Palestinians lost their land and they don't care if the whole Arab world is lost.

Now we demand that Syria should enter the war against Israel, though we realise that it is not Syria alone which fights in Lebanon, but the American force with the Israeli strategy. They want Syria to enter the war to allow them (Israel and America) to reach Damascus as they reached Beirut.

Who will face Israel? The United States whose President came out with Begin, the Israeli prime minister, very happy? Or the Soviet Union, which has not yet replied to telephone calls from Syrian officials?

I said in Egypt during Jamal 'Abd al-Nasser's time, that the Soviet leaders were on holiday in the Horn of Africa. Today they are also on holiday at a time their friends are being slaughtered in Lebanon.

Who will stand against Israel? The 23 Arab ideologies?

The talk of pushing Syria into the war alone against Israel is funny because Syria will not be capable alone, as we know, unless we want Syria to be in trouble.

We should stop playing with the Palestinian card. Perhaps it might find the actual way of restoring its lands.

Also we must prepare ourselves, as Arabs, for a minimum solidarity to create a unified ideology acceptable to the world, as it accepted the Israeli logic.

Anything other than this will result in our facing a historical recession caused by Arab leaders who today live in the days of Bismark who unified Germany, and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Dakhil who Arabised Spain.

CSO: 4400/348

AMIR ADDRESSES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

GF201143 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 19 Jun 82 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jun--Kuwait will continue to be the symbol of freedom, justice, and liberty and will be the protector of the Arabic and Islamic principles, said H. H. the amir in his address to the national assembly yesterday, on the eve of the last session before the summer vacations.

HH. the amir also lauded the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council and praised the countries for playing a vital role in the Gulf region in particular and the Arab and Islamic world in general and for maintaining peace and close cooperation.

Elaborating on GCC's role in the Gulf, he said that since its inception in May, 1981, it had been evident that the states would achieve a better understanding of their problems and would cooperate in resolving them. The unified economic policy agreement, signed by the GCC Ministerial Council in the session held between August 31 to September 2, 1981, is an example of the close cooperation, he said.

The amir, in his address, praised the efforts of the national assembly here in supporting the government so that the country could progress and develop its internal and external frontiers. He lauded the work of the assembly in maintaining legislative freedom and endorsing important policies.

The amir affirmed the government's responsibility in maintaining internal security and protecting the state's interests at its borders, a task which is becoming increasingly difficult in face of the current international situation, he pointed out.

His highness reiterated Kuwait's support to the Palestinian cause saying: "We will remain the messengers of peace. We believe in the importance of cooperation, especially so in the face of the current situation."

He expressed deep concern about the disputes among Arab states and emphasised that the time is now ripe to unite and resolve all differences. "We will play the role of a mediator in resolving any disputes among our Arab brothers," he stressed.

The amir address briefly referred to his tour of the Balkan states and the "spirit of friendliness" that it had generated.

The four year developmental program, which will be carried out in accordance with Article 98, was brought up in the amir address. He pointed out that the plan included the development of various utilities and facilities. He said that the government is keen to hear the comments and suggestions of the assembly members.

The assembly, meanwhile favors a non-aligned policy. It urged the government to consistently support and adopt the non-aligned policy. The importance of this policy has been doubled in the present international situation and the threat to the Palestinian revolution, it stated.

The assembly reiterated Kuwait's stand on Israel and stated that it would condemn any "recognition of or compromise with Israel."

The members of the assembly urged the GCC to "maintain an independent stand" so that it can play an important role in "safeguarding national integrity and democracy" of its members.

The national assembly, during its current session, had approved 679 government decrees issued during the absence of the assembly (1976-1981).

The assembly passed 35 draft laws, in addition to two other laws, which are still in the preliminary stages. In addition, it endorsed 143 reports prepared by its various committees.

The two laws, still under discussion, can be roughly divided into five drafts. The first one concerns compulsory payment of zakat (alms tax). Some deputies have suggested that it be made compulsory on certain investment companies.

The second draft law is regarding amendment of some articles of the nationality law. The third is about amending some articles of Amiri decree No 5/1959 regarding real estate registration laws. The fourth concerns the fire brigade.

In all the deputies had made 243 queries about local developments, and regarding the working of various ministries. The government had clarified 210 queries.

During its session, it participated in various international forums, including the Arab parliamentary union and the international parliamentary union.

Assembly delegation visited friendly countries in the Gulf, Asia and Europe. A delegation had visited UAE in December 1981 and another went to India in April, 1982.

The assembly hosted a delegation from Iraqi national assembly in April 1981, and an Indian parliamentary delegation in April 1981. It also received a West German parliamentary delegation on April 25, 1981.

COMMENTARY ON SAUDI-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION

GF041125 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 4 Jul 82 p 4

[Text] Beirut, 3 Jul--Saudi Arabia and Egypt have overcome three years of estrangement to work in tandem to press the United States to use its influence with Israel to bring the Palestinians into rejuvenated Middle East peace process, according to well-informed Palestinian officials.

The timing of the Israeli invasion three weeks ago caught the Arab world at the height of another of its recurring periods of disarray. For the first several days, the response was tepid at best from the many states that have declared themselves the enemies of Israel and the protectors of the Palestinians.

With no military help from the radical Arab regimes that have traditionally supported them, except for Syrian troops, the Palestinians find themselves now depending on two of the conservative Arab states with which they have been fundamentally at odds in recent years.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Washington's closest Arab allies, have cooperated closely despite their lack of diplomatic relations to make clear to the Reagan administration the cost to the United States and all moderate Arab regimes of an Israeli assault on West Beirut.

Starting roughly two weeks ago, when Egypt and Saudi Arabia reportedly sent a stiff joint message to the United States, the two governments have pleasantly surprised the Palestinians, who have been angered that other Arab states abandoned them during their ordeal.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's new-found benevolence toward Egypt, which it considered a traitor before the invasion for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel, is symptomatic of a change of heart.

Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian deputy foreign minister, has met at least four times with PLO representatives during the past 10 days.

Egypt has cooperated by sending an Egyptian-based brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army to Lebanon since the invasion, according to Palestinian officials.

CONTACTS HELD BETWEEN HADDAD, BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL

TA062002 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Contacts have recently been held between Maj Sa'd Haddad and the leaders of the Lebanese forces commanded by Bashir al-Jumayyil with the aim of achieving coordination. Since the IDF entered Lebanon frictions arose between Major Haddad's militia and al-Jumayyil's Phalange on the matter of control of important zones in Lebanon. Some of Haddad's men who arrived in East Beirut were detained [ne'etzru] by the Phalangists. Our correspondent reports that Israel decided to allow Haddad's men to have presence in the areas north of Sidon and that this decision was not received well among al-Jumayyil's Phalange. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports on the contacts:

[Begin Ya'ari videotape] The roadblock manned by Haddad's soldiers moved northward. A week ago these soldiers were positioned on the al-Zahrani bridge south of Sidon while now they are located on the bridges of the al-'Awali River north of Sidon. This progress by Haddad's men creates both in the field and in the political sphere the beginning of frictions between Haddad and Bashir al-Jumayyil's Phalangists with Israel being in between. Who will seize the area which the IDF is controlling now? Who will organize and arm local militia? In short, who will be master here? Israel itself has different versions. Some believe Haddad had better move forward, northward, and turn the spaces extended as far as the al-'Awali River into part of free Lebanon which he created along the old border. Some believe that the Phalange is the major force among the Christians in Lebanon and they better be relied upon. [End videotape]

CSO: 4400/355

LEBANON

DRUZE, MARONITES AGREE TO END ETHNIC STRIFE

TA070918 Jerusalem POST in English 7 Jul 82 p 3

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The strife between the Druze and the Maronites in Lebanon has been subsiding for the past 3 days, following an understanding on both sides to turn over a new leaf, Druze Likud Mk Amal Nasir al-Din told the JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Nasir al-Din said he had been close to the discussions between representatives of the Druze and Maronite communities during four separate visits to Lebanon over the past few days.

He said that leaders of both communities had worked out a three-point understanding whereby they would not blockade each others villages, would not kidnap each other and would not pursue vendettas against individuals.

He said a top-level committee of two had been appointed to settle any incidents that take place despite the new arrangement, as a result of what was called "local initiatives." This is composed of Maronite priest Na'aman (Bulus) and Faysal (Arsian), son of (Arsian) clan leader Majid (Arsian).

Nasir al-Din said that the Maronites and Druze are united in the principle and that all foreigners--Palestinians, Syrians and Israelis--must leave the country.

He said that although leftist Druze leader Walid Junblatt had not taken part in the discussions to end the strife, Junblatt would inevitably bow to the ruling by the spiritual leader of his community, Shaykh Muhammad Abu (Shaqra), that normal relations must prevail between Druze and Maronites.

Nasir al-Din said that Junblatt is now willing to break his former ties with the PLO and Syria.

CSO: 4400/355

HADDAD SETS CRITERIA FOR RETURNING EVACUEES

NC090913 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Statement by "Free Lebanon" commander Major Haddad issued 9 July, place not given--read by announcer]

[Text] Following the liberation of the larger part of Lebanon from the swindlers [Palestinians] and the Syrians and in view of the fact that our war has never been directed against the Lebanese but against the occupying aliens and--in keeping with our policy aimed at restoring the country to what it was before--particularly after the return of the evacuees of al-'Ayshiyah, al-Jiyah, al-Sa'diyat and al-Damur to their towns and from a humanitarian standpoint, we have decided to allow those evacuees of the town of al-Khiyam who are not colluding with the enemy to return to their town on the following conditions:

1. Everyone who wants to return must submit an official request explaining all aspects of his position, starting from the date he left his town as well as the reasons that prompted him to leave and those that are now prompting him to return. The request must be handed to 2d Lt Rizqallah al-Fuhayli.
2. Military personnel who wish to return must append to their request a copy of the memorandum [words indistinct].
3. A committee will be formed in the eastern sector to study all requests and it will notify the final decision to those concerned.
4. All evacuees are warned against returning to al-Khiyam before receiving the approval decision.
5. The mayor of al-Khiyam must contact the Free Lebanon commander for clarification of any points on the return.
6. This decision comes into force as of today, 9 July 1982.

CSO: 4400/355

TENSION BETWEEN PHALANGE, HADDAD MILITIA

TA081254 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Jul 82 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] Tension has prevailed in the last few days between the Christian Phalangists, headed by Bashir al-Jumayyil, and the soldiers of the Christian militia, commanded by Major Haddad.

The Phalangists during the last week began to patrol areas of southern Lebanon and even built a roadblock near Sidon. It should be noted that until now Haddad's men controlled an area reaching the outskirts of Sidon and which overlaps the 40-km strip north of the border. In this area many meetings were held and in most of the settlements the residents expressed their willingness to accept Haddad's leadership. Now, when discussion on the future political regime in Lebanon is on the agenda, the Phalangists have decided apparently to keep a military presence, even if it is only a symbolic one, in southern Lebanon in order to "score points" in preparation for the decision on the area's future, reported informed sources yesterday.

It was reported that despite their presence in the area, the Phalangists avoid discussion of mutual subjects with Haddad. It was also reported that among the official elements handling the affairs in southern Lebanon there are disagreements as to which authority will take over running the area's affairs once an agreement is reached in Lebanon.

Reliable sources think that Haddad has already proved his loyalty to Israel through the years while there is grave doubt whether the Phalange and its leaders can be as reliable.

CSO: 4400/355

BRIEFS

BEIRUT PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED--Beirut, 8 Jul (AFP)--About 190 criminals will shortly be released from prison in West Beirut because their physical safety from Israeli bombings cannot be ensured, Lebanon's chief prosecutor announced today. The prisoners to be released include between 50 and 60 accused murderers, according to an earlier report. The measure may be extended to prisoners in East Beirut as well, it was learned from legal sources. [Text] [NC081752 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 8 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/355

EDITORIAL URGES JOINT ARAB ACTION

PM301247 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 27 Jun 82 p 3

[Editorial: "A Unified Arab Stand So That Israeli Withdrawal Will Not Be Conditional"]

[Excerpts] It seems that the entire international community was waiting for the Israeli occupation of Lebanon to become a fait accompli before making a face-saving move. Such a move will only be political and will not go beyond speeches at and resolutions by the UN General Assembly and Security Council. Such moves are futile because they approach the problem on the basis of perpetuating the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, or at least ending the occupation but fulfilling the objectives of the Israeli invasion.

It is most regrettable that the pan-Arab attitudes of the Arab states are no better than the attitude of the international community demonstrated at the UN General Assembly and in the Security Council. As usual, the majority of the Arab states have continued to stall and procrastinate as if to avoid the responsibility of collective decision and the consequences of a joint action or move to share the suffering and fate of the Lebanese and the Palestinians.

The slow and delayed Arab move toward holding a summit conference to formulate a collective stance has given the Israeli enemy precious time which he exploited well in his barbarous invasion of Lebanon. Had it not been for the Saudi efforts led by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to stop the invasion and prevent it from achieving its final objectives, the invasion would not have stopped short of storming West Beirut and liquidating what is left of the Palestinian resistance leaders and commander and of the Palestinian women and children, in this massacre perhaps unprecedented in this century.

We still believe, however, that it is not too late for the Arab states, if they wish, to adopt a collective stance and agree on joint action for the sake of Lebanon and the Lebanese and the Palestinian resistance, and to ensure the continuation of the Palestinian resistance's honorable struggle for the liberation of the occupied territory and the restoration of the usurped legitimate rights.

A pan-Arab move would have a positive impact on the international powers and their approach to a settlement in Lebanon and the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces without even one single condition, such as the withdrawal of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon, which Israel wants and which is the main aim of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

BANK OF SUDAN REPORT REVEALS AGRICULTURAL CORPORATIONS' DEBTS

Khartoum SUNA in English No 4158, 16 Jun 82 pp 5, 6

[Text] Madani, June 15 (SUNA)--The Bank of Sudan revealed two days ago that Sudanese agricultural corporations owe the bank 183 million Sudanese pounds. This figure does not include the Gezira [al-Jazirah] and Rahad schemes.

A representative of the Bank of Sudan disclosed these figures at the annual agricultural conference here.

He said that the financial situation had reached the point where a pause for reconsideration was required.

Giving details, the representative said that debts of farmers of the Managil and Gezira [al-Jazirah] scheme totalled 60 million pounds, and for the Rahad scheme 38 million. Farmers debts in other schemes totalled 28 millions, he added.

The representative claimed that the situation resulted from the total reliance by agricultural corporations on the banking system for the financing of debts.

That he said was coupled with a "total failure to fulfill obligations" in the repayment of debts after one year when they fell due.

The representative pointed out that financial orders went up one year after another.

Thus, he said orders totalled 117 million in the 77-78 season, 190 million by the 80-81 season, and 240 million by the 81-82 season.

This figure was further expected to rise to 350 million by the end of the next season, the representative added.

Turning to sugar, the representative noted that the sugar corporation had run up debts totalling 72 million pounds.

He questioned why the economic factor had been ignored when the idea of turning the projects into private companies was first mooted and the effect of debts on share sales for these companies.

The Bank of Sudan report declared the growing of cotton unprofitable, except in the Gezira [al-Jazirah] and Managil regions, in view of present costs and production averages.

Total costs per feddan for the Blue Nile corporation were 309 pounds the report said while returns were 176 pounds, a deficit of 133 pounds.

Meanwhile, in the White Nile project costs were 307 pounds while returns were 220 pounds, a deficit of 87 pounds, he added.

Finally in New Halfa costs were 253 pounds while returns were 200 pounds, a deficit of 53 pounds he said.

The Bank of Sudan report also dealt with the increase in production expenditure provisions which had risen from l.s. 7.2 million in 1973-4 to l.s. 28 million in 1981-2.

In this respect the representative pointed to the great man-power surplus in the agricultural sector.

He suggested a number of measures to overcome these problems.

Firstly, he demanded the opening of regular bank accounts subject to inspection as well as the procuring of limited capital sums for the agricultural corporations.

He called on the Ministry of Planning to respond positively to projects and corporates by covering their needs, especially in the construction state.

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation stated that he consented to the conclusions of the report.

He declared that this situation was intimately connected with the economic situation of the nation as a whole.

The economic recovery programme was designed to deal with these problems, he said.

He assured the conference that the situation had begun to improve as from this season.

CSO: 4500/217

BRIEFS

HARBOR CONTRACT EXTENSION--Khartoum, June 3 (SUNA)--Three contracts were signed here yesterday for the implementation of phase two extension for the modernization of Port Sudan Harbour. The contracts were signed by the Sudan Government, the Yugoslave Pomograd and the British Capper Nail. Promogral has won the civil works contract, while Capper Neil has won two other contracts for upgrading grain handling facilities and installing a self-contained electricity supply. According to Corporation's Projects Manager Hassan Ahmed Hassan [Hasan Ahmad Hasan], work will start this month and lasts 19 months on the phase two extension which is financed by the World Bank's International Development Association with 25 million dollars in addition to a local component of 4 million Sudanese pounds. Board Chairman of the Sea Ports Corporation signed for Sudan. Representatives of the two companies signed for their firms. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4145, 3 Jun 82 pp 3, 4]

COTTON PRODUCTIVITY REPORTED--Khartoum, June 3 (SUNA)--According to the successful policy of cotton production marketing this year's harvest of cotton is expected to yield a revenue of LS. 240 million, SUNA learnt. The cotton Public Corporation was able to sell more than 900,000 bales of cotton, from the last two years production. The amount, which accounts for 80 percent of the Sudanese cotton displayed in international market, was purchased by Japan, Switzerland, Italy, Britain, France, Federal Germany, and other countries. The success of this year's cotton production was mentioned in one of the famous specialized cotton magazines, which praised the Sudan's cotton productivity policy and said the Sudan has gained back its distinguished status in the world cotton market. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4145, 3 Jun 82 p 8]

SSU NOMINATIONS--The Southern Region SSU announced the start of nominations for the SSU President office. Nomination period for this office for all the citizens in the country has started on May 25 and will be closed on June 25. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4147, 5 Jun 82 p 5]

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WINNERS--The following candidates were announced winners in the elections of the southern Region's fourth peoples Assembly:
 1) Richard Mokobe, for the graduates seat. 2) Stans-Jimmy Wango, for the graduates seat. 3) Mayom Deng Atem, Angello Gwang, and Micheal Malith Apat, for the joint seats between the Upper Nile Jonglei province. [Text]
 [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4147, 5 Jun 82 p 5]

WORLD BANK PROJECT--Khartoum, June 12 (SUNA)--Board Chairman and Director General of the Sudanese Agricultural Bank Sidahmed Osman [Sidi Ahmad 'Uthman] told SUNA the bank has started the implementation of a 35 million-dollar project for agricultural services. The project aims at assisting small farmers to modernize conventional agriculture at Um Rwaba [Umm Ruwabah], Kordofan, and also assist them in reviving the growing of groundnuts plus intensifying horizontal and vertical agricultural production at Dongola [Dunqolam] area in the Northern Province. In addition the project aims at consolidating the headquarters and branches of the bank. Some \$18 million of the total cost of the \$35 million project constitutes the foreign component financed by the International Development Agency (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, Osman ['Uthman] said. The remaining \$17 million forms the local component to which the Bank of Sudan is contributing \$7.8 million and the Agricultural Bank is putting in \$5.2 million plus \$3.8 million contributed by the farmers themselves, he added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4154, 12 Jun 82 p 2]

BANK LOANS--The Sudan Industrial Bank paid LS. 750,000 to finance some food, engineering, building material and services projects, SUNA learnt. The move is in the framework of applying the new policies of the specialized banks. Particular focus would be on the support of medium and small industries, said the Bank's Director General Hassan Ahmed El-Maki [Hasan Ahmad al-Makki]. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4154, 12 Jun 82 p 5]

TRACTOR DISTRIBUTION--The Insurance Cooperative Corporation began distributing 100 Spanish made tractors to the Farmers Unions in the provinces to face preparations for the new agricultural season, SUNA learnt. The equipment costs LS. 1.5 million to be collected from the farmers after first paying 40 percent of the cost while leaving the remaining to be collected in two years time at easy instalments. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4154, 12 Jun 82 p 6]

CUSTOMS, DUTIES--Khartoum, June 12 (SUNA)--Customs' revenue up to last May amounted to LS. 407 million, SUNA learnt. The revenue increased by LS. 77 million over last year's LS. 324 for the corresponding period. A reliable source in the Customs and Duties Department said the increase occurred as a result of the application of the new financial policies which amended the exchange price of the dollar and the extra fees tax. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4154, 12 Jun 82 p 1]

WATER STATIONS--Kassala, June 15 (SUNA)--Eastern Region Acting Governor, Suleiman Fagiri [Sulayman Faqiri] opened at Gadarief [al-Qadarif] yesterday a modern water station workshop which is one of the four workshops which are constructed by Yugoslavia under the agreement it signed with Sudan in 1977. The four workshops provide maintenance facilities to water stations, wells and drilling equipment. In addition to the workshops Yugoslavia established 16 maintenance centres throughout the Sudan, provided 65 trucks and 20 car-tanker as well as providing aid to Wed El Magboul [Wad al-Maq'bul] Technical Institute. The volume of the Yugoslav contribution to this effect is \$30 million. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4157, 15 Jun 82 p 5]

LAGU VISIT--Juba, June 15 (SUNA)--Member of SSU Preparatory Central Committee Joseph Lagu said the decentralization day which is announced by President Nimeri [Numayri] manifests the Revolution's fulfilment of its promise to delegate power to the masses. Commenting on his presence here, he announced that he came to take part in efforts exerted to bridge southerner's views towards the type of their forthcoming government by virtue of his moral and status obligation. Lagu arrived here yesterday. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4157, 15 Jun 82 p 5]

SUGAR PRODUCTION--Medani, June 15 (SUNA)--Sudan Sugar factories have produced 238,000 tonnes this year i.e. about 35 percent of the factories full production capacity, a report by the Ministry of Industry presented to the annual agricultural conference here, said. This year's production makes for 53 percent of the total consumption of the country that amounts to 450,000 tonnes per annum. The existing factories' full capacity amounts to 670,000 tonnes. The report attributed the low output to shortages in equipment, vehicles and spare parts. The blame went also for inadequacy of irrigation water, power cuts, scarcity of fertilizers and sugar cane diseases in some production areas. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4157, 15 Jun 82 p 3]

APPOINTMENTS DECREED--Khartoum, June 14 (SUNA)--President Gaafar Mohamaed Nimeri [Ja'far Muhammad Numayri] yesterday decreed the relief of Sayed/ Shakir Abdel Rahman [Mr Shakir 'Abd al-Rahman] from the office of Board Chairman of the Railways Corporation and the appointment of Sayed/ Ali Ameer Taha [Mr 'Ali Amir Taha] as Board Chairman of the said Corporation. He also decreed the relief of Sayed/ Abbas Ali Raji [Mr 'Abbas Ali Raji] and the appointment of Major-General (retired) Abdel Rahman Sid Ahmed Borbor ['Abd-al-Rahman Sidi Ahmed Burbur] as Board Chairman of the River Transport Corporation. He also decreed the relief of Sayed/ Mustafa Awad Allam [Mr Mustafa 'Awad 'Allam] and the appointment of Sayed/ Hassan Ahmed Hidirbi [Mr Hasan Ahmad Hidirbi] as Board Chairman and Director-General of the Telecommunication Corporation. The President further decreed the appointment of Sayed/ Mohamed Kamal Badr [Mr Muhammad Kamal Badr] as Under-Secretary of the Education and Guidance Ministry to succeed Sayed/ Issam Ahmad Hassoun [Mr 'Isam Ahmad Hasan] who went into optional retirement. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4156, 14 Jun 82 p 3]

COP-TRADE--Khartoum, June 14 (SUNA)--President Gaafar Mohamed Nimeri [Ja'far Muhammad Numayri] yesterday decreed the appointment of Sayed/ Mohamed Khogali [Mr Muhammad Khujali] Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cop-Trade Company Ltd. He also decreed the appointment of Sayed/ Ismail Shiboun [Mr Isma'il Shibun] as Director-General of the said Company. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4156, 14 Jun 82 p 3]

WATER SUPPLY--Khartoum, June 15 (SUNA)--First Vice-President and chief of State Security Major-General Omer Mohamed El Tayeb ['Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib] yesterday morning discussed with concerned officials here the situation regarding the cuts that recently effected the water supply system in the three-twon capital. After a thorough discussion of the situation, the meeting adopted the following measures. 1) The distribution of water by tankers to effected areas. 2) The operation of diesel engines to provide the effected

areas with their water requirements. 3) The installation of new pumps and diesel generators at the new wells. 4) The digging of new wells if necessary. The meeting also reviewed the measures necessary for the protection of the national electricity network. Attending the meeting were: the Minister of Energy and Mining, the commissioner of Khartoum Province, the Head of the Military Operations and the chairman of the People's Assembly's services committee. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4158, 16 Jun 82 p 4]

KHARTOUM WATER CORPORATION--Khartoum, June 15 (SUNA)--President Nimeri [Numayri] has formed the board of directors of the Khartoum water corporation under the chairmanship of the Energy and Mining Ministers. The board also comprises: 1) Director General of the Khartoum water corporation. 2) Yassin Omer El Imam [Yasin 'Umar al-Imam]. 3) Ahmed Mohamed Yassin [Ahmad Muhammad Yasin]. 4) Mohamed El Hassan Abbarsi [Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abbarsi]. 5) Ahmed Dakkam [Ahmad Dakkam]. 6) Mohamed Siddig Talha [Muhammad Sidiq Talha]. 7) Director General of the National electricity administration. 8) Director General of the National water administration. 9) Adviser of the Energy and Mining Minister. 10) Planning undersecretary. 11) Frouk Merghani Hamza [Faruq Meirghani Hamza]. 12) Representative of the corporation's engineers and technicians. 13) Representative of the corporation's workers. 14) Representative of the corporation's employees. 15) Representative of the People's Armed Forces. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4158, 16 Jun 82 pp 4, 5]

SSU CENTRAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE--Khartoum, June 13 (SUNA)--SSU Central Preparatory Committee Saturday passed the programme of its specialized committees. The Central Committee indicated that the programmes will be guided by the President's address on the occasion of the Revolution's 13th anniversary. President Nimeri [Numayri] who chaired yesterday's meeting declared that the 1st of July, will be the 'Day of Decentralization' to celebrate the success of implementing decentralized government all over the country. The President said the beginning of next July will witness the sworn-in of the new regional Governors and the elected President of the High Executive Council for the Southern Region. On the process of elections in the Southern Region, the President denounced the conflicts which were based on old conceptions. The President said the Revolution disregarded some of the shortcomings in order to safeguard the country against plotters. President Nimeri said fixed programmes, within the framework of decentralized government, will be worked out for the coming Southern Region's government and the region's Assembly. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4155, 13 Jun 82 p 8]

FACT FINDING COMMITTEE--Khartoum, June 13 (SUNA)--President Nimeri [Numayri] Tuesday ordered the formation of a fact-finding committee to investigate the shorage of electricity and water supply. Chaired by Sayed Badr Eddin Sulieman [Sayyid Badr-al-Bin Sulayman] the 12 member committee will investigate the reasons behind the shortages of power and water supply since the 10th of June and the efforts exerted to solve the problem. The committee is to report to President Nimeri [Numayri] within one week. To carry out its jurisdictions, the committee may have access to all official papers and may summon whomever it wishes to hear. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4155, 13 Jun 82 p 3]

ECONOMIC RESULTS--Khartoum, June 13 (SUNA)--The Auditor General yesterday presented President Nimeri [Numayri] with the economic report for fiscal year 1981/82. It showed a budget surplus of 32 million Sudanese pounds, a significant improvement on the previous two years. The Auditor General Hussein Abdurrahman [Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman] commented in a press statement later that the 32 million surplus contrasted with a deficit for the previous two years in the range of two to four millions. He attributed this year's surplus to an improvement in revenue collection particularly as regards customs and excise duties. The Auditor General's report said embezzlements in fiscal 1981/82 totalled 936,000 pounds. Those responsible had been convicted, it added. Furthermore the report detailed expenditure savings of 76 million pounds. These, it said, resulted from posts which were left vacant during last year. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4155, 13 Jun 82 p 6]

CSO: 4500/210

PRESS CRITICIZES ARAB LEAGUE'S STATEMENT ON LEBANON

GF031023 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jul (WAM)—UAE papers continue to comment on the situation in Lebanon following the barbaric Israeli invasion which began on 4 June, on ensuing developments on the military, political and diplomatic levels, and on discussions on stripping the PLO of its weapons and getting it out of Lebanon.

AL-ITTIHAD warned against changing the whole [Palestinian] question into an issue dealing only with Beirut or Western Beirut, or with preventing or stopping the Israeli incursion of this city or with the expulsion of the Palestinians from Lebanon. The paper enquired: "Where will these military and Palestinian civilians go? Why did they not go to Palestine or at least to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?" The paper pointed out that Arab diplomacy has proven its weakness before the diplomacy of the enemy, and before the diplomacy of the U.S. envoy after holding negotiations [with the U.S. envoy] on the land of steadfast and besieged Beirut. The paper said: "Instead of supporting the besieged steadfast, this diplomacy bargained with the enemy on partial and marginal demands which, if they come true, will lead to further Arab losses." The paper continued that if reports on an Egyptian-French initiative before the UN Security Council with the aim of discussing the whole issue again in addition to discussing the rights of the Palestinian people are true, then this will put the whole matter on the track. The paper continued that it does not welcome or support it [the initiative] except under the current circumstances in which all efforts seem to have dissipated.

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ paper today discussed the resolutions adopted by the six-member committee which stemmed from the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting. The paper said: "Nothing has been achieved. The final statement was issued containing repetitious statements of repeated support and backing which are usually issued in every occasion. But this time the committee decided to contact the UN Security Council permanent members to ask them to work in the direction of ensuring the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon." The paper continued: "The resolution adopted by the committee ignored the fact that the United States is one of the UN Security Council permanent members and that it has vetoed all the resolutions which denounced Israel." The paper continued that the Arab countries remained silent for

25 days, since the incursion of Lebanon, besiegement of Beirut and massacring of its inhabitants. Then the six-member committee concluded its meetings without issuing one resolution that could justify "to those simple people of our nation or those simple friends of the Arab issue abroad this long Arab silence." The paper pointed out that we expected that the committee would adopt a resolution calling for stopping supply of Arab oil to the United States, or severing ties with it, or opening the borders and the airports of the confrontation countries to allow the flow of weapons and men to the Palestinian resistance and its partner in struggle, the Lebanese national movement. We also expected that the statement would include an ultimatum stressing that the incursion of Beirut would mean that the long-range Arab missiles would be ready for retaliation, and we even expected that the joint Arab defense pact would be implemented. Nothing of the sort happened "because the Arab countries announced what they intended to do from the very beginning of the Zionist incursion, and this was represented in their silence and long waiting for the developments of events and the unilateral reaction of Tel Aviv and Washington."

Concluding its editorial, the paper expressed disappointment at the situation reached by the Arab countries. The paper said: "We never expected that the Arab countries would resort to the UN Security Council at the beginning and the end [of the issue] without making a positive step. It is as if some of them are saying: "May we have another veto to relieve us of this critical situation."

CSO: 4400/350

PRESS COMMENTARY ON SOVIET, U.S. STANCE ON LEBANON

GF051154 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0745 GMT 5 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jul (WAM)--The UAE papers today commented on various aspects of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. All the papers asserted the importance of Arab self-reliance so as to continue the steadfastness in besieged Beirut and consequently foil the goals of aggression and preserve the Palestinian revolution so that it can continue its struggle and recover its rights.

AL-ITTIHAD commented editorially on the Soviet position toward the Israeli invasion. Stressing that it had stunned the Arabs, the paper said this is not the first time the Arab world has been astonished and astounded by the Soviet stance toward the Arab-Zionist dispute. The paper said: "The Arabs have been stunned several times. They felt bitterness several times about the Soviet stance. Among those stunned, in particular, are the Arab countries, together with Arab organizations and parties, which established friendly or alliance relations with the Soviet Union." The paper reviewed the stands of the Soviet Union which first crystallized in 1967 when the 5 June defeat took place. The paper continued: At that time the Soviet ambassador asked Egypt's 'Abd al-Nasir--his friend at that time--not to resort to war. Then Israel launched a sneak attack on the Egyptian Air Force bases, and "'Abd al-Nasir expressed extreme bitterness at this position." The same position was repeated when the Lebanese civil war broke out, particularly during the battle of Tal al-Za'tar when the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement--which were besieged in many positions--were surprised because the Soviet Union did not provide them with any military aid, even a shipload of provisions or supplies. "This position was openly criticized by a number of the resistance leaders."

The paper continued its review of the Soviet stance and referred to its latest stand toward the Israeli invasion which was limited to verbal denunciation of Israeli aggression in addition to statements praising the heroic steadfastness of the resistance. The paper then said: "As happened in the past, the leaders of the Palestinian revolution and the leaders of the Lebanese nationals expressed their resentment and surprise at the Soviet position." The paper enquired: "Doesn't the current situation in Lebanon entail a strategic and effective Soviet move, as the United States is making since it laid its aggressive military and political weight alongside

the Zionist entity? Is there an implicit agreement--as rumor has it--that Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution would be bargained in return for Poland and Afghanistan?" The paper answered by saying: "We expect the Arab delegation currently visiting Moscow to find answers to these questions in light of the Soviet strategic superiority, which Washington admits, and in light of the Soviet international weight similar to that of the United States at the UN Security Council."

Concluding its editorial the paper said: "We do not expect Moscow to fight our battle. We Arabs have to fight this battle in a way that forces the Soviet Union to interfere in our behalf and places the whole world--including the allies of our enemy in Washington--before a de facto situation. What is our position toward Moscow and Washington? What do we want? Certainly, we do not know what we want."

On the same subject of "the Soviet stance," AL-FAJR said that the Soviets move according to a strategy associated with their interests which are linked with the other superpower, the United States. Besides, they will not reach a common stand with the Arabs unless they have a position in the region. "Having a position in our territories, wherever it is, implies opening the region to the presence of the two superpowers."

The paper indicated that true balance in the Middle East can be attained through unity of the Arab nation, ensuring its solidarity and ability to adopt a decision. The paper continued: "We are supposed to end U.S. influence in fully supporting Israel. Why then do we hastily send a delegation to the Kremlin? What do we want from them at this difficult time and in which we are facing total collapse? Are we going there to let them send us somebody who can defend us? A few days ago Soviet officials noted that the peoples of the region are better suited to defend their own territory. They also frankly said that Arab solidarity is the only means capable of confronting the enemy."

The paper demanded that the Arabs' relations with the superpowers be reviewed on realistic bases and a consistent strategy. The paper said: "Sincerely speaking, we--the Arab nation--adopt imprompt positions. We do not know what to do. What we reject today we accept the next day. We are always emotional and excitable. Despite all that, the situation remains in our own hands and we possess all the capabilities. But we lack the strong position that can come only through Arab solidarity."

On the announcement made by the government of the Zionist enemy asserting its absolute rejection of any draft resolution that includes even a symbolic force of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon, AL-WAHDAAH asserted that this decision "got its strength from Arab political and military weakness." The paper pointed out that the moves by Philip Habib are currently based on claims that "efforts are being aimed at saving Beirut from comprehensive damage that will take place if the Israeli forces overrun it. The only means to avert this damage is to evacuate the resistance from Lebanon."

AL-WAHDAAH demanded in light of this fact that the Arabs "move politically and confront the plans of Philip Habib, the stooge of U.S. terrorism." The paper also suggested that the Arabs take a step toward solidarity by "taking down U.S. flags in all the Arab capitals or adopting a resolution that calls for struggle against the enemy."

CSO: 4400/350

BRIEFS

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS--Abu Dhabi, 4 Jul (WAKH)--The UAE balance of payments showed a surplus of 12.9 billion DH in 1981 against 18 billion DH in 1980. A semiannual economic bulletin released by the UAE Central Bank today indicated that the balance of commodity trade showed a surplus of approximately 44 billion DH in 1981. This was much less than that of 1980 which was 49.4 billion DH due to the drop in oil exports from 72.1 billion DH in 1980 to 67.2 billion in 1981. Nonoil exports rose from 7.2 billion in 1980 to 8.4 billion in 1981, with an increase of 17.3 percent. [GF041613 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 4 Jul 82]

ABU DHABI DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATIONS (WAM)--The total allocations for the Abu Dhabi development program for the current year totalled DH 7 billion, out of which DH 6.5 billion were allocated for contractual projects, DH 300 million for the ongoing projects and DH 200 million for reserve projects. According to a report issued by the Abu Dhabi Planning Department, project costs this year had doubled over those of last year. The reason for the increase was, according to the report rise in prices of materials, equipment, fuel and services. [Excerpts] [GF051117 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 5 Jul 82 p 1]

OIL DRILLING IN ABU DHABI--Abu Dhabi Oil Company, Offshore Operations (ADCO) will complete in late 1982 the drilling of five oil wells in Shah oilfield which was discovered in 1966 near the Saudi border. Oilfield supervisor 'Abd al-'Amir Hamadi told the company's SADA AL-BAR magazine, which published its first issue yesterday, that the daily productive capacity of the oilfield is estimated at 50,000 barrels of crude oil. [GF291729 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 29 Jun 82 p 2]

ABU DHABI GNP--Dubayy, 1 Jul (QNA)--The Dubayy-based newspaper, AL-BAYAN, reported today that the gross national product for the emirate of Abu Dhabi reached 80.788 billion DH in 1982. It will reach 89.834 billion DH in 1983, 99 billion DH in 1984 and 108 billion in 1985. A research paper released by the Abu Dhabi Department for Planning has indicated that the great rise in the GNP resulted in massive economic development in Abu Dhabi and this was reflected in the rise of the per capita income and in increased consumption and investments. [Excerpts] [GF011200 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jul 82]

CHEMICAL WAR TRAINING GROUP GRADUATES--Abu Dhabi, 5 Jul (WAM)--The armed forces today celebrated the graduation of a new group of chemical war trainees who mastered flame throwers. The ceremony was attended by the chemical war group commander and a number of armed forces officers. At the outset of the ceremony, the group commander gave a speech stressing the importance of chemical warfare in modern wars and the need for the armed forces to avoid casualties in case the enemy uses this weapon. The training commander then gave a speech outlining the stages through which the graduates passed through and the training lessons which they learned during the course. At the end of the ceremony, the graduates made a practical exercise on the use of flame throwers. The chemical war group commander distributed certificates and prizes to graduates and top students. [Text] [GF051334 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jul 82]

LIQUIFIED GAS FOR CARS--Abu Dhabi, 6 Jul (WAKH)--Quoting official sources at the UAE Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD today reports that the institute has succeeded in operating a number of its cars by using liquified petroleum gas instead of petrol. [GF061245 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Jul 82]

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES REAGAN--Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, has sent a cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his country's Independence Day. In the cable the brother president refers to the catastrophe which the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples are living as a result of the unjust aggression by the Zionist enemy, the devastation besieged Beirut is subjected to and [words indistinct] women and people, and expressing confidence that the United States (?will put an end) to this tragedy and play an important role in establishing peace in the region. [Text] [GF041755 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jul 82]

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